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OBSERVATIONS OF LARGE UNIDENTIFIED MARINE ANIMALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ADJACENT WATERS

by

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Abstract

This report presents the results of a survey beginning at the end of 1969 on "sea-monsters", displayed, discussed and compared with previously published information on the subject. The fundamental question of existence remains unresolved. Heuvelmans' categories have not proved useful for classifying our data and doubt is thrown upon their validity.

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1. Introduction

Seafarers and travellers have always delighted in trying to impress landlubbers and stay-at-homes with tales of fantastic creatures glimpsed in foreign parts. The further away the more fantastic, with embellishments such that the creature finally described often had little resemblance to actual living animals. Thus the brutish Indian rhinoceros was metamorphosed by word of mouth into the elegant medieval unicorn. Willy Ley, in an entertaining little book entitled "Exotic Zoology", relates a number of such occurrences where the prototype of semi-legendary animals was later discovered, in a form more or less resembling its folkloric shape.

Is the matter closed ? Are there no more such creatures of doubtful existence, as yet unrecognized by science ? What about the Tibetan Yeti and its cousin the Sasquatch in the Pacific Northwest ? And that tribe of elusive sea-, lake- and loch-monsters one keeps hearing about ? Might there not be an element of fact behind all those tales ?

Being marine scientists, our interest naturally focussed on so-called "sea-monsters". Our curiosity was stimulated while reading Heuvelmans' great tome on the subject, "In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents". This book presents a survey of ALL sea-monster sightings known to the author, meticulously extracted from press-clippings, ship's logs, travellers' reports and previous compendia on the subject. Altogether, Heuvelmans unearthed 587 reports! Upon careful scrutiny of each report, he was forced to dismiss 56 as resulting from hoaxes and 121 as being too vague and imprecise to be of much use. The rest he divided in a number of categories according to similarities in the described features. The discussion is too extensive to be quoted at length, and the reader must be referred to Heuvelmans' book for the details. Of more particular interest to us was the number of reports emanating from the coastal area of British Columbia.

It seemed to us that, although Heuvelmans might have done a great job of sifting through documentary evidence in his search for sea-monster reports, he might well have missed many, news of which never reached the press. Being on the spot, we should be able to conduct a much more thorough survey and strengthen the circumstantial evidence for the existence of such animals.

Our aim in conducting this survey has thus been

1. to enrich the stock of evidence concerning large unknown marine animals often reported on the B.C. coast,
2. to use this new material together with that gathered by Heuvelmans to obtain more accurate estimates of the characteristics and behaviour of these animals.

It is our hope (still a faint one!) that the accumulation of such information may eventually lead to the possibility of a meaningful search for such animals.

Finally, to scoffers who insist that there cannot be any more large undiscovered animals nowadays and that reported "sea-monsters" are the result of hallucination, error or bad faith, we can only say that they should not prejudge the case so hastily and rashly absolve such creatures from the burden of existence. Many a man has hung on the basis of flimsier circumstantial evidence. We will admit that what may pass for sufficient proof in a court of law might not satisfy the criteria of incontrovertible scientific proof: the body is still missing, and the existence of "sea-monsters" will remain in doubt until a specimen is caught, dead or alive. Nevertheless, it would help the search and identification if an accurate description were available. It is in this spirit of curiosity mixed with scepticism that we have conducted our research.

2. Data Collection

We adopted a much more direct method of data collection than Heuvelmans. Instead of relying on sightings reported in the press, we went directly to eye-witnesses for information. One can hardly blame Heuvelmans for not attempting to do this on a global basis! Besides, we thereby limited ourselves to rather recent sightings, from living witnesses, counting on Heuvelmans' previous compilation to have dug up the earlier ones. As it turns out, we also received a number of reports from earlier sightings missed by Heuvelmans.

In order to reach as many witnesses as possible, we prepared a questionnaire (reproduced in Appendix I) which we sent to marinas, lighthouse keepers, fishing clubs and to all local newspapers on the British Columbia coast. The press coverage was excellent and the news of our "sea-monster" quest eventually appeared in most Canadian newspapers and even found its way into the New York Times. Not only did we receive letters from eye-witnesses requesting a copy of our questionnaire but also second-hand information which gave us further clues in our search and allowed us to reach people who had either remained unaware of our survey or were initially reluctant to volunteer information.

We also gave a few public lectures on the subject, in the spring of 1970 at Malaspina College in Nanaimo, at the Pacific Northwest Oceanographers Meeting in Portland and at the Institute of Oceanography at U.B.C.

Ideally, we would have liked to interview each witness in the flesh. This proved to be impractical due to limitations of time and money. We however managed to visit two or three of the witnesses.

3. The Evidence

The response to our press release of November 14, 1969 was immediate. Seven of the sightings outlined below were received before the end of November and about a dozen followed in early December. It clearly did not take very long to purge the public memory of much of its information on this subject. About half a dozen reports trickled in in early 1970: none were received after April 1970: our message had been forgotten by then. All in all, twenty-three eye-witness descriptions reached us. Only one of these is found in Heuvelmans' compendium. This lack of overlap is surprising and will be discussed later.

The reports were divided into three categories on the strength of the evidence they contained: (1) actual sightings by eye-witnesses; (2) second-hand reports; (3) ancillary evidence. These are now described in chronological order, by category.

3.1 Eye-witness reports

It would be too long to quote each eye-witness report verbatim. We have abstracted from most reports the essential facts and circumstances of the sighting. Our comments follow each description in a separate paragraph: we have endeavoured to keep the editorials separate from the news! For some sightings, we were fortunate enough to dig up more than one eye witness; in such cases, each witness' description is presented separately. Some witnesses expressly requested that their names should not be divulged: their wish has been respected.

No maps are presented with the individual reports. The reader who is not familiar with the place names mentioned therein should refer to the distribution maps in section 4, p....59 ff.

1905 Welch

In 1905 or 1906, Mr. Philip Welch, now living in Port Alberni, was working as a timber faller on Cracroft Island. On a September Sunday, Mr. Welch and a friend took a 16 foot rowboat across Johnstone Strait to go trout fishing at the mouth of the Adams River. The sea was calm. There was an enormous salmon run at the mouth of the river, and the river was so congested with salmon as to make it impossible to fish for trout. It was only about 9 a.m. but the fishermen were already resigned to having rowed in vain across the Strait when "less than half a mile from the mouth of the river, a long neck appeared, some 200 yards astern of their boat." Welch wanted to shoot at the creature with his hunting rifle, but his companion would not let him, for fear it would attack. While they argued, the creature submerged, with "very little disturbance", and they rowed for shore as quickly as they could, hitting salmon with their oars at every stroke. The creature reappeared again about 100 feet astern. It was swimming faster than they could row: 6-7 knots against 4 knots, and gained on them. No body wake was visible when the animal swam. Once more it submerged, and they did not see it again.

The animal had a long neck, 6-8 feet of it protruding above the water. The neck was about the size of a stove-pipe tapering from a 20 inch diameter at the base to 8-10 inches at the head. The head was somewhat like a giraffe's: they saw it well as the creature looked up and down Johnstone Strait, turning its head this way and that. Welch noticed two bumps on the head, about 5 inches high and rounded on top. Nostrils were plainly visible, but the eyes were hard to see. No mane or hair of any sort was visible. The animal was brown in colour.

Comments

Mr. Welch did not provide us with a sketch, but his description is extremely similar to that given (1937; names withheld) for the animal shown in Fig. 3, except for the absence of a mane.

1922 Cook

On a clear morning of May 1922 (about the 22nd) J. Philips and C.G. Cook were standing on the deck of Philips' boat, anchored near the Pulteney Point lighthouse on Malcolm Island. It was windy and the sea was rough, with waves coming from the northwest. Philips is now dead but Cook remembers the circumstances of the sighting of a strange creature. "We were on stand-by," he writes, "keeping a look-out for the lighthouse tender who had not yet returned to the lighthouse, when I saw what I thought was the boat coming in our direction. I called to my companion that the tender was coming but did not have his sail up. We saw what we thought was the mast; but as the creature came closer we could see that it was its head and neck out of the water. We were really frightened by what we saw and breathed a sigh of relief when it kept on going - although it had a most gentle appearance and had eyes similar to those of a cow and seemed to have a film over them.

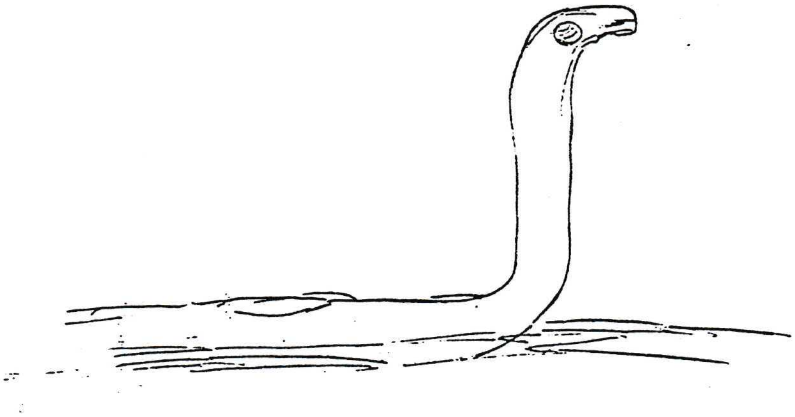


Figure 1. C.G. Cook's sketch of the animal he saw near Malcolm Island.

The animal swam within about 100 ft of the boat, and about 300 ft. from shore. Cook estimates its length at about 25 ft.; the neck stuck out of the water 7ft. and the animal appeared only 1 ft, wide. A sketch is reproduced here (Fig. 1). The creature was brown in colour, with a "scaly appearance". Mouth and nostrils were visible and the observers were struck by its large timid eyes. It moved at about 6 m.p.h., in the absence of any observable current, its head moving back and forth, "like a snake". It seemed interested in its surroundings and looked gentle.

Comments

Is this the same kind of creature reported by Welch? There are significant differences, such as the size of the eyes and the absence of short horns on the head. The reader should be on the look-out for such noticeable features and differences, as they will be mentioned again and again. There may well be more than one type of unknown animal involved in these sightings!

1922 Dudoward, C.H.

Mr. Charles Dudoward, from Port Simpson, B.C., sent us word of a "great squid" which washed ashore one winter morning of 1922 in front of Mrs. Robertson D. Rudge's Port Simpson Hotel. The hotel was on the high water mark, on piles. Dudoward sent us a lovely pastel sketch of the giant, stretched in front of the hotel (it took more than 20 men to drag it there). Funds for this kind of research being what they are, the reader will have to be satisfied with a xerox reproduction of the colour sketch, (Fig. 2). The animal is described as having "four long arms on each side, 50 ft. long: the width of the hotel. But the one in the middle....is about 100 ft long and might be longer when stretched. On the end is a hook-shaped (sic) about 10 in. wide by 12 and solid, plastic colour". Needless to say, the "octopus" (Dudoward uses both squid and octopus to describe the animal), although fresh, had a strong smell! The managers of the hotel had it towed out to sea as soon as they could.

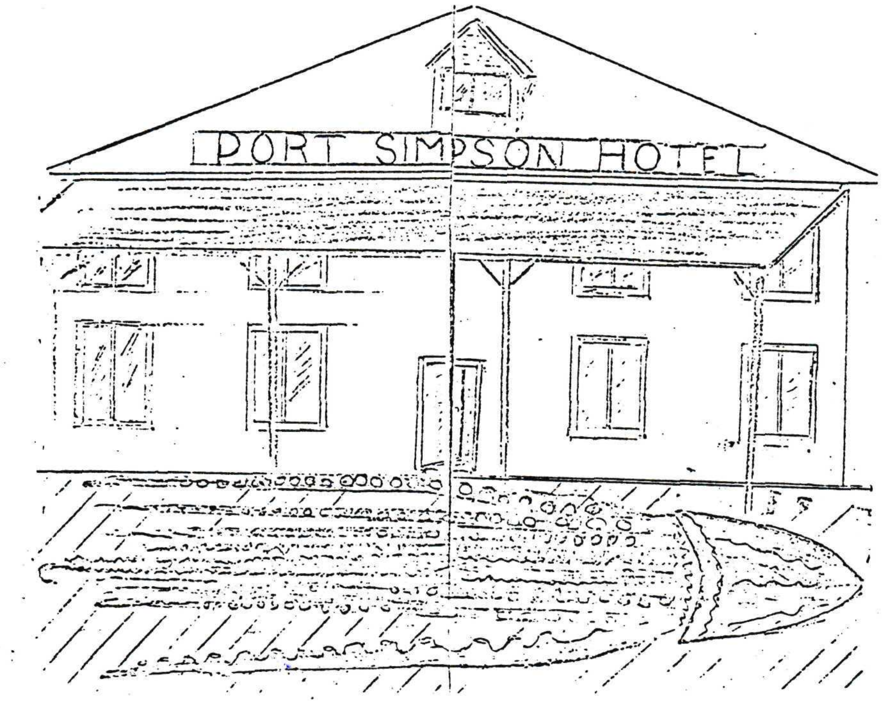


Fig. 2. The Port Simpson giant squid. The hotel is 50 ft. wide.

Comments

This report is very reminiscent of the numerous descriptions of battered giant squids found on Newfoundland's beaches at the end of the last century (Heuvelmans, Ch.2). The animal depicted by Dudoward is one tentacle short of being a squid (only one long central tentacle). This would, however, not be a bad state of preservation considering the mutilated state of some of its earlier congeners. The description fits *Architeuthis* very well and one may safely conclude that this was indeed a specimen of the giant squid, which has now been seen often enough on beaches and in sperm whale stomachs to have passed from the domain of the folklore to that of scientific fact. To our knowledge, this is the only specimen ever found in this region of the Pacific. The animal has however been found on Japanese, Australian and New Zealand beaches.

Dudoward relates two more sightings by residents of Port Simpson. These will be found below in the "second-hand" category.

1937 (names witheld)

These witnesses insisted most strongly that their names should not be revealed, as they had already been subjected to ridicule on this matter. They would not describe the sightings in detail until we promised not to divulge their identity. We will comply by referring to them as X and Y and avoiding any references to personal details such as age, sex, occupation, etc.... This is however not an anonymous report, as all these details were provided and are known to us.

The time was late December 1936 or early January 1937: around New Year's Day; the place, the Oregon Coast about two miles south of Yachats and 10 or 12 miles north of the famous sea-lion caves. At that point, just south of Cape Perpetua, there is a chasm in the rocky shore line known as Devils Churn. The weather was stormy, with wind and rain and a very rough sea. The witnesses were sitting on a landing along the switch-back trail which leads from the parking area near the highway to the Churn, about 30 ft. above the sea, and were watching the spectacular breakers there.

The creature was first sighted about 200 ft. due west of the mouth of the Churn. It came directly towards the Churn, swimming slowly without any visible propelling motions, and stopped close to the entrance of the chasm for 15 to 20 seconds, during which time it was only about 100 feet from the observers. They remark that "the heavy breakers did not seem to toss it around one bit". A truck came by on the highway during that time; the animal turned its head to look at it, then looked at the witnesses and again at the truck. It then took off southwards along the coast, moving quite rapidly at a speed estimated by X at 25 to 30 knots. Both witnesses followed it along the shore-highway in their car. At an observation point about a mile south of the Churn, the animal was about 300 ft offshore. It then veered off from the coast at an angle of about 30°. An unidentified man stopped his car at the lookout and they all watched it swim out to sea until it vanished.

What did the creature look like? To the first witness X, it had a head resembling that of a horse, or a camel, atop a long neck (at least 15ft. and not more than 20 ft. long) and with small ears that "fluttered incessantly". He first thought that it was a telephone pole coming vertically out of the water, as there was a lot of driftwood in the surf. A closer look and the motion of the animal quickly dispelled this first impression. A mane of the colour of sea-weed, was visible on the neck all the way down to the body. The body itself was about 6 ft across, the size of a steam boiler, although not rounded: a ridge ran along the top. When the animal was in a low trough, after a breaker, X also noticed the tail, which he describes as somewhat longer than the total length of the body and he estimates the total length of the body and tail at 55 ft. Only 3 to 4 feet of the body itself emerged above water.

To the second witness, the head and neck looked more like a giraffe's. He did not notice the fluttering ears, but remarked that the animal had small straight horns on its head, 8 or 10 inches high and the "size of a small water-pipe, 3/4" to 1" in diameter."

A sketch accompanied the report and is reproduced here (Fig. 3).

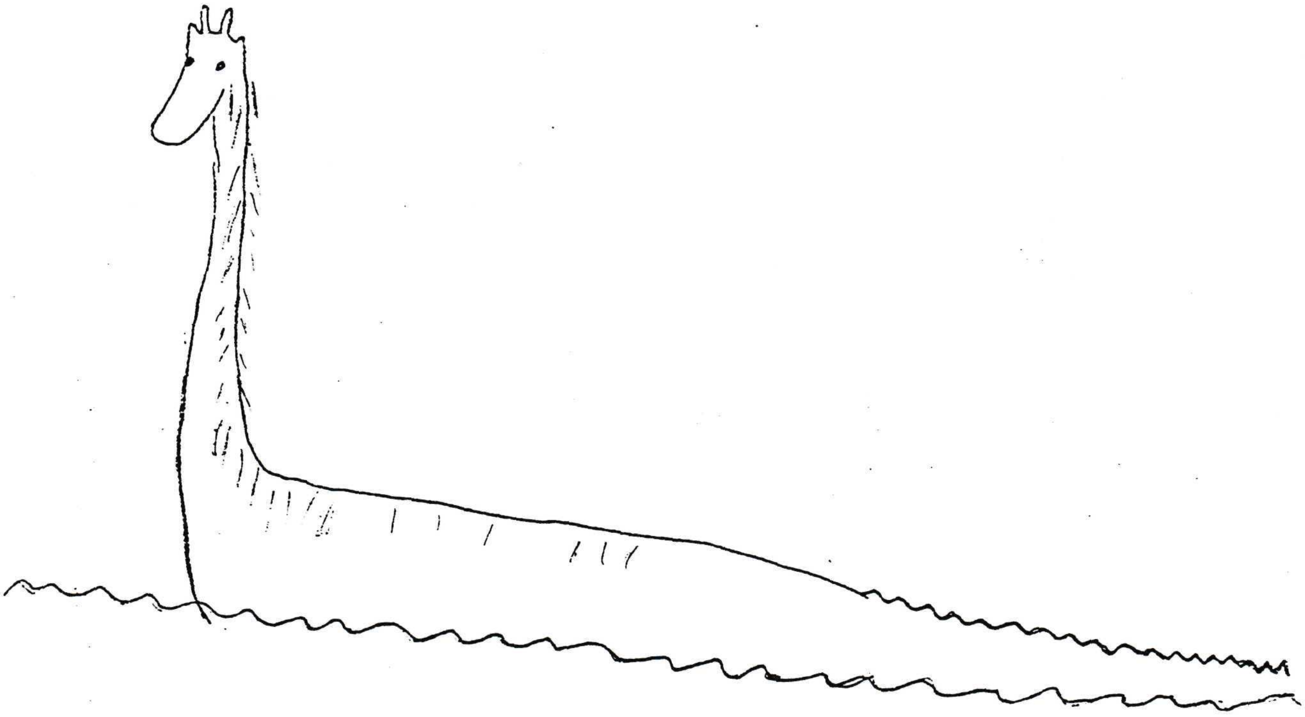


Fig. 3. The Yachats Sea-Monster

Comments

One might at first glance imagine that the description of the head-shape by the two witnesses is contradictory. But as the animal was clearly neither a horse, nor a camel, nor a giraffe, each witness searched for a resemblance. It seems that the giraffe-shape as described by witness Y may have been associated with his noticing the horns, which X either did not see or took for ears. We recall that (1922-Welch) also mentions horns.

1939 Tildesley

On a summer afternoon in 1939, Mrs. M. Tildesley was busy sketching the Olympic Mountains from a small beach at Ten Mile Point, near Victoria. She was accompanied by a friend, Mr. Duncalfe. It was a clear and very calm day. They were having lunch, at about 1:30 p.m., when Duncalfe suddenly shouted, "Caddy!" About 100 ft from shore, there appeared what looked like a long greenish-yellow log, moving "very fast" westwards. The creature dived, "hardly disturbing the water" and came up again further out and going towards Cadboro Bay. They lost sight of it around the headland.

Mrs. Tildesley guesses the length of the neck at 6 to 10 feet. No other part of the body was visible. The head was small and hardly distinguishable from the neck (Fig. 4a).

We suggested to Mrs. Tildesley that she should write to Mr. Duncalfe, now an art teacher in Brooklyn, N.Y. This she did and sent us another sketch, made by the second witness from memory.(Fig. 4b)

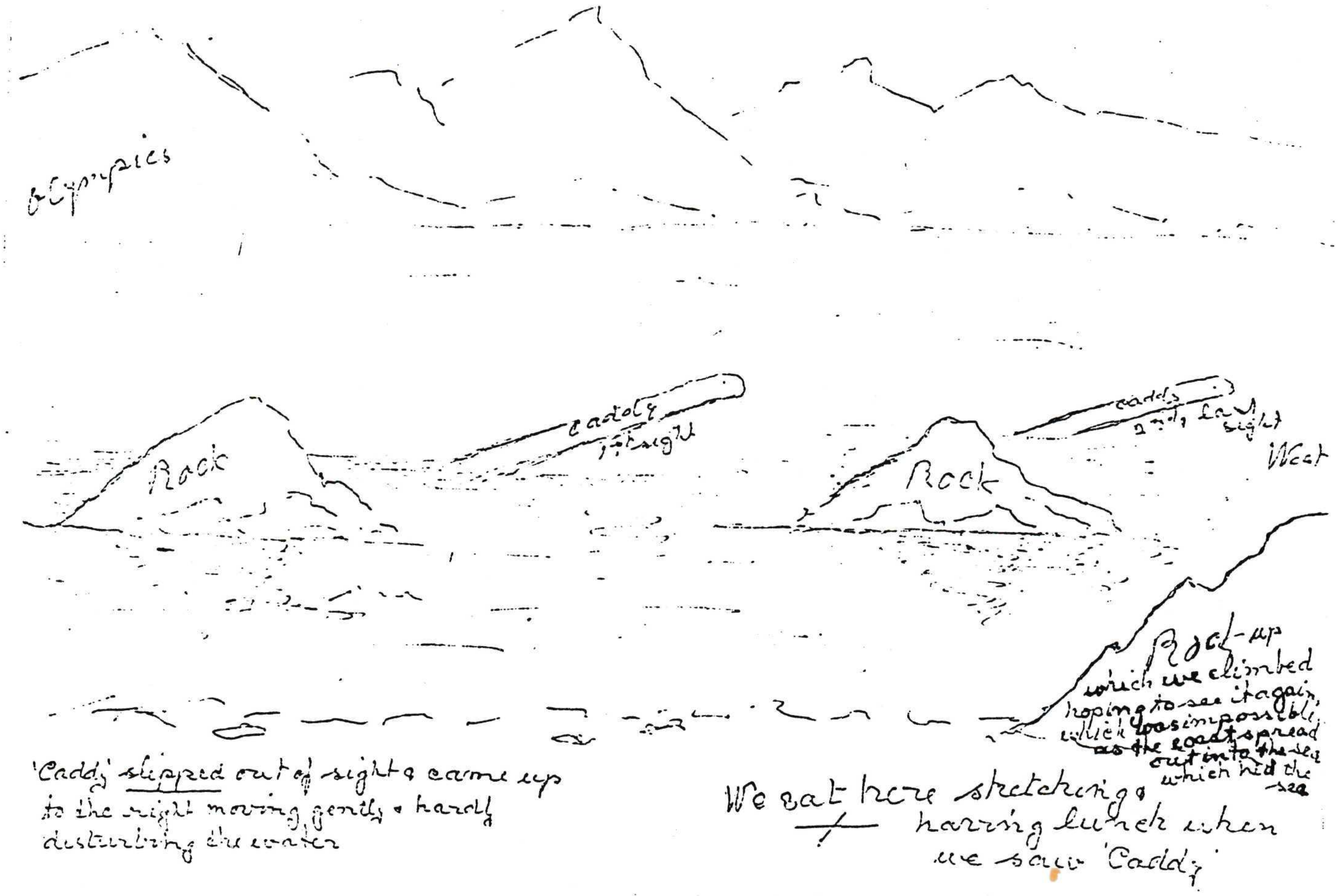

Olympics
Rock
caddy 1st sight
Rock
caddy 2nd, last sight
West
Rock-up which we climbed hoping to see it again, which was impossible as the coast spread out into the sea which hid the sea
'Caddy' slipped out of sight & came up to the right moving gently & hardly disturbing the water
We sat here sketching & having lunch when we saw 'Caddy'

Fig. 4a "Caddy", as seen by Mrs. Tildesley at Ten Mile Point. First sighting on the left, second sighting on the right.

Comments

This was clearly a very short and exciting sighting, and few details were noticed. As often remarked elsewhere, the animal submerged without a ripple. There is some divergence of opinion as to the general bearing and shape of the creature's head between the two witnesses, as seen by comparing the sketches. "Caddy" it will be recalled, is the name familiarly given to this animal in the Victoria area.

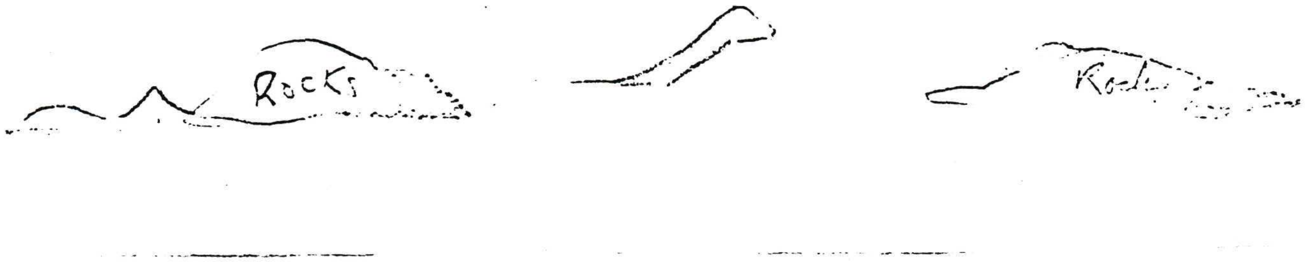


Fig. 4b. "Caddy" as seen by Mr. Duncalfe.

1939 Sowerby

In July or August 1939, Captain Paul Sowerby, now living in North Vancouver, was standing on the bridge of his ship, about 25 ft above the water. The sea was smooth, with a long ground swell. The ship was about 12 miles offshore, off Destruction Island, on the coast of the State of Washington, heading towards Barkley Sound from the Columbia River. A floating object attracted Sowerby's attention; at first sighting, in the distance, it resembled a polar bear, but he reasoned that that was practically impossible! Captain Sowerby changed course and stopped the engines to get a better look, reaching within 30 ft. of the object before it submerged , simply going down. The animal, as it seemed to be an animal, reappeared astern. The ship was turned about but was now facing the sun and the crew lost sight of the creature.

Captain Sowerby's sketch is reproduced here. (Fig. 5) Only the animal's head stuck out of the water; about 3 ft. of it was visible above the surface, but the water was very clear, and the neck seemed to go on far below. No body was visible underwater. The head tapered from about one foot at the level of the eyes to 2 1/2 feet at the water line. The huge eyes were clearly seen by all and were noticed to blink a few times. The hide was ringed by what appeared to be rolls of fat. No other details were visible.

Comments

Captain Sowerby gave us names of two crew members who were on board at that time. One of those we could not locate, while a letter to the other remained unanswered.

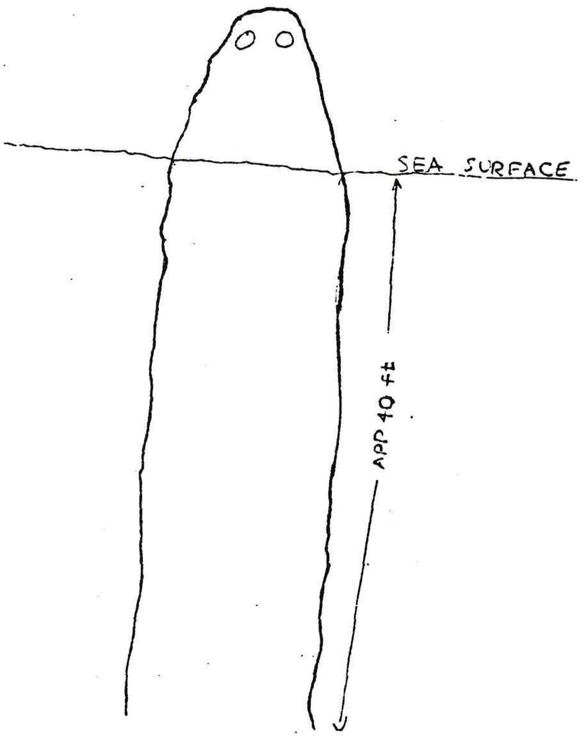


Fig. 5.

The animal described by Captain Sowerby

1940 Luoma

In August 1940, Mr. E.H. Luoma, now of Courtenay, B.C. was travelling northwards through Discovery Passage in a small (14 ft) motor boat. With him was Mr. Isaac Krook of Granite Bay, now deceased. It was a calm sunny day. It was about 2:30 in the afternoon when they saw a strange animal not more than 200 ft. ahead of them. They were then near the mouth of either Rock Bay or the next small bay up Discovery Passage from Campbell River, and about 200 ft. from the Vancouver Island shore. They slowed the motor down as the animal immediately dived, sendings great loops above the surface of the water, causing much turbulence and leaving sea-tracks of "millions of bursting bubbles". The creature surfaced again about 600 feet astern of their boat, took one quick look at them, quickly inhaled and disappeared.

Luoma described the body as being round and serpentine, 50-75 ft. in length, brown in colour, and of about the girth of a "gas-drum". The largest loop stuck 6-7 ft. out of the water; a smaller loop was visible ahead of this main one and a smaller one behind as well. No details were seen, although Luoma believes the eyes were on the side and that the mouth was in a "central position, like a snake's". (See sketch, Fig. 6). Upon surfacing again, only the head was visible; its diameter is estimated at 6-7 feet, with similar length.

Comments

This description is in sharp contrast with the ones seen so far. A similar serpentine is reported by (1946, Nilsen).

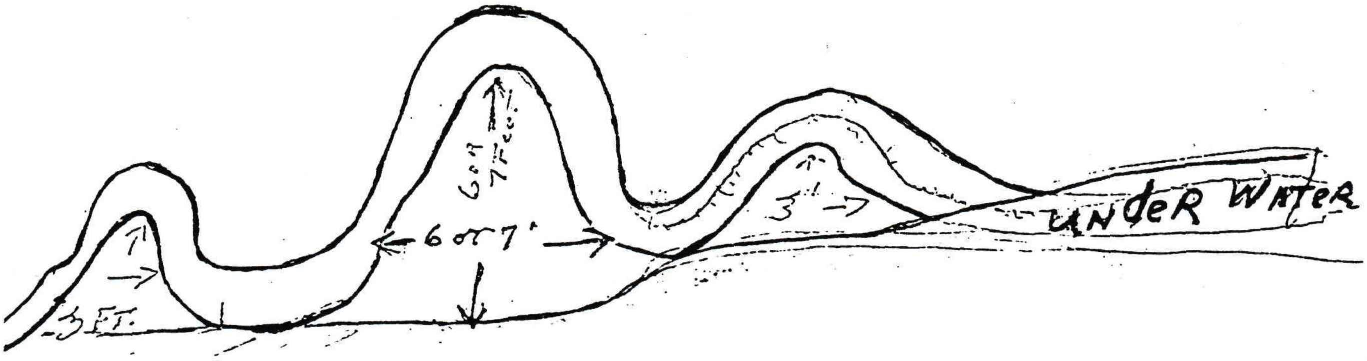


Fig. 6 The serpentine animal seen by Luoma, just before diving. The head is underwater, on the right.

1943 Easson

Mrs. Jane Easson read about our survey in the Ottawa Citizen. In 1943, she lived on the shores of Roberts Bay, near Sidney, B.C. One evening at about 7 p.m., late in August, she was feeding the seagulls from the top of a small cliff (8 feet) overlooking the bay. It was clear and sunny; there was no wind and the sea was very calm. Suddenly, she noticed a strange sight about 8 feet from shore in front of her. Six or seven spikes, about four inches high, were sticking out of the water and undulating gently. The rest of the creature was under water, about 8 ft. long, and of a dark colour (black or brown). It swam "slowly" offshore with an "up and down" motion, producing a visible wake (see Fig. 7). Mrs. Easson assured us that this was neither a dolphin, nor a seal, with which she was quite familiar. This is the only time that she saw "Syd" (for Sidney?) as she refers to it.

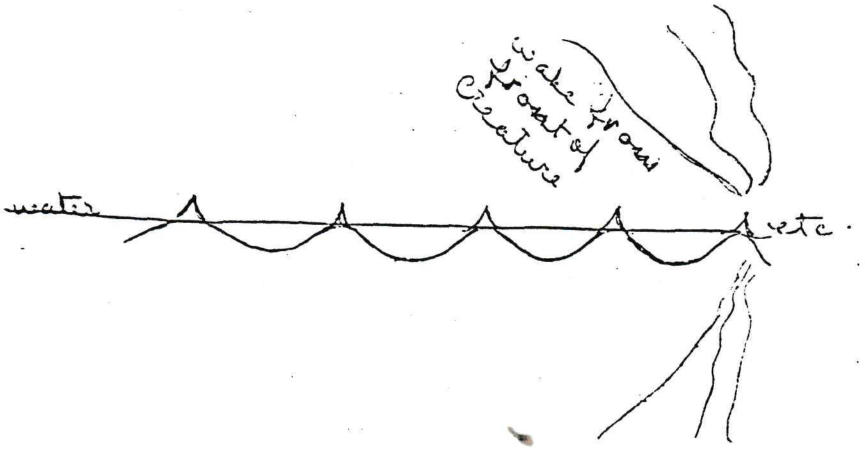

water
wake from front of creature
etc.

Fig. 7 The "spikes" seen by Mrs. Easson. The surface wake is also shown.

Comments

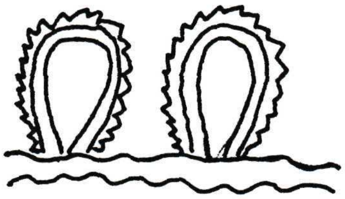
This is not the only report that we have of a "spiny drifter" (see 1951, McLean for comments). This animal is however quite different from the one observed by Mrs. McLean, and we do not venture a tentative identification with an oar-fish or other rare fish on the scanty evidence available.

1946 Nilsen, (Hayward)

On a bright clear morning in the fall of 1946 at about 8:30 a.m., Mrs. Dorothy Nilsen and her husband John were going in their boat from their home in Southey Bay on Saltspring Island to the town of Chemainus, on Vancouver Island. The sea was almost calm, with only small waves. Just outside the bay, "there was a school of herring, and hundreds of birds were feeding on them:. Mrs. Nilsen was in the wheel-house, steering the boat, while her husband was below, oiling the engine. As they came between Cooper and Tent Islands, she was "startled to see a large loop, and then another", in front of the boat, about in the middle of the channel. The loops stuck about 5 ft. out of the water and were like round pipes with a fin all along (see Fig.8). Mrs. Nilsen describes them as being "of a sickly colour, like putty". The animal moved very rapidly toward the school of fish, leaving a big wake behind, like a motor boat.

Fig. 8

The coils of the serpentine animal seen by Mrs. Nilsen



The birds feeding on the herring scattered when it approached. Neither Mrs. Nilsen, nor her husband, whom she immediately called, saw anything else of the animal than the two loops mentioned above. However, at that time, they also saw their neighbour in Southey Bay, Mr. Frank Hayward, heading for the school of fish, where he slowed down and promptly dropped his fishing lines. Hayward later related to Mrs. Nilsen that the creature had surfaced near his boat and scared him. He saw its head, which was like a very big sheep's head, and of a "funny" colour. Its eyes were "wicked".

Comments

Both Mr. Nilsen and Mr. Hayward are dead, so one must be satisfied with Mrs. Nilsen's report of what they saw. Judging from its behaviour, the animal seen is a swift-swimming fish predator. The description of its colour is somewhat unsatisfying. The loops showing above the surface reminded us of Luoma's report,(1940).

1946 Grist

On the 23rd of June, 1946, the southern coast of British Columbia was violently shaken by a fierce earthquake, with epicenter near Campbell River. The day following this memorable event, Mrs. Winnifred Grist was walking her dog on Balmoral Beach, in Comox. The weather was fine and the sea was quite calm. Suddenly she saw, about 35 feet from shore, a head which "looked exactly like that of a horse, just about the size of a riding horse's"rise straight up from the water. It was watching her dog, which was running ahead of her. Its colour was "sea-weed brown" and its eyes were very red. Needless to say, Mrs. Grist was surprised and "wondered what a horse was doing out there". But then she recalled a widely publicized sighting in Cadboro Bay, near Victoria. Fortunately, she had a camera with her and she quickly moved it up to her eye! In the meantime the creature had been gradually emerging, until about 6 feet of a long straight neck were visible below the head. Alas! Our witness adds that "when he saw me trying to get a picture he went straight down into the sea again. Not a ripple. I took a picture of the beach anyway, which I am enclosing."

Comments

Confusticate and bebother the creature, diving away before getting its picture taken! It is indeed rare that an eye-witness happens to be toting a camera, but Mrs. Grist never even had a chance to shoot a picture. The photograph that she sent us confirms her report on the weather and the sea state; there is continuous cloud cover at about 2000 ft. Mrs. Grist does not mention nostrils, ears, mouth, etc., but one may assume that she saw them since she describes the head as looking "exactly like a horse's." This "horse-head" on top of a rather long neck will again be mentioned by many witnesses. The body was not visible; presumably the animal was scared away before he had time to emerge completely.

1947 Pantages

This sighting has already been reported by Heuvelmans (Ch.13,p.473), who obtained his information second hand, from a newspaper clippings. The incident was, to quote Heuvelmans, "reported by a journalist who made much heavy humour at the expense of Mr. Pantages' Greek accent..." We phoned Mrs. Pantages (Mr. Pantages died in the fall of 1969) who was along and also Mr. Chris Altman, another eye witness.

According to Mrs. Pantages, they were fishing in a boat off Siwash Rock, in English Bay near Vancouver at the end of February or beginning of March 1947. The creature was first seen at a distance, 200 to 300 yards away but came within about 120 yards of their boat. It had two or three humps and a horse-face, with two horns and great big eyes. Its skin was dark, but somewhat lighter than that of a "black fish" (pilot whale); it was also larger than a "black fish". The strange animal swam with an up and down motion, like a caterpillar; it looked at them for a while and then went off to sea.

Mr. Altman relates that he was busy with his fishing rod when the animal first appeared. Hearing Pantages' shout, he looked up in time to see it dive. They were then about a mile off the Stanley Park shore, somewhat closer to Siwash Rock than to Ferguson Point. The animal approached within 50 yards of their boat and was visible for many seconds, perhaps a minute. Its head was like a horse's, with horns or ears on the top, and its eyes green (although it was hard to see; they could have been shiny, or "otherwise"). Altman remarks that the creature blew water out of its nose; snorted.

Comments

Once more, a horse's head. As in 1937 (names witheld), there is some uncertainty in the witnesses' mind about the nature of head appendages; are they horns or ears? We also note the up-and-down swimming motion, indicating movement in a vertical plane, as is characteristic of swimming mammals. The different modes of swimming of mammals, fish and reptiles are discussed in detail by Heuvelmans (p.99 and p.318).

1948 Kline

The following sightings were reported to one of us (PHL) in person by Mr. Rod Kline, a contractor from Winter Harbour, B.C. As they both involve the same witness and presumably the same creature, observed in the same area within an interval of about a week, they have been lumped together in their general description.

The sightings occurred at about noon on successive weekends in the spring (April or May) of 1947 or 1948. Kline was then seal-hunting on the beach near Jordan River, on the coast of the Juan de Fuca Strait, more precisely near China Point - (see Fig. 9). On the first sighting, the animal was seen swimming 150 to 200 yards offshore about 4 miles to the southeast of China Point. There was a southeast wind and the sea was rough, with a 6 ft. swell breaking on the beach. The creature seemed curious and looked at Kline. The following weekend, it was seen at about the same time (between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.) about 4 miles on the west side of China Point. The sea was then dead calm and the animal was about 1/2 mile offshore, swimming westwards. This second time, Kline shot at it; it rolled over and came up a mile and a half away, dived again and was not seen after that.

Kline's sketch of what he saw is reproduced on the next page.

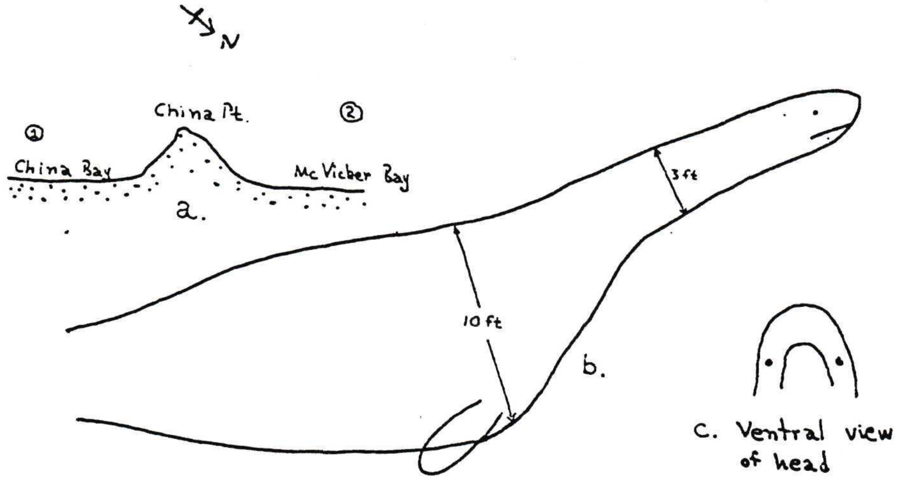


Fig. 9 Sighting by R. Kline near Jordan River. a) The area with locations of first and second sightings indicated. b) Side view of the animal. c) ventral view of the head.

The creature he described as about 30 ft. long, with a thick neck. Small eyes and a large mouth were visible. It reminded Kline of "a huge fat seal" about 10 ft in diameter at the shoulder and with two small fins, proportionally much smaller than a seal's. Its colour was the same as a harbour seal's, lighter on the belly than on the head, and spotted.

The animal swam at the same speed as a fishing boat, 7 to 8 knots, in a bobbing motion, travelling 100-200 yards with its head out of the water, submerging slowly and then, after 50-100 yards underwater surfacing abruptly.

Comments

If the animal's dimensions are correctly estimated, this could hardly be a seal as there aren't any of that girth. The closest candidate, the male northern elephant seal is recognizable by its wrinkled nose, no mention of which is made here. Is this perhaps the same animal seen only with its neck standing out (see Mrs. Tildesley's sketch, Fig. 4a)? Was the animal hit by Kline's rifle shot? Certainly, "flipping over" is not its normally described mode of submersion.

1950 Leighton

This brief apparition was related to us by Mrs. Evelyn Leighton, of Wellington, B.C. She was fishing with her husband on a fairly calm and clear early morning, around 1950, off Piper's Lagoon, near Nanaimo, B.C. They were about 300 yards offshore when she saw a head, which made her think of a "horse's head minus ears" about 150 ft. away from the boat. Mrs. Leighton called to her husband "but, she says, my call apparently startled it, and it just disappeared in the water, and that was all." Her husband did not see the horse-headed creature and she, only a head; she does not recall any details such as eyes or mouth, although the colour is reported as "slate-brown."

Comments

No ears? See comments following Erickson (1957)

1951 McLean

Heriot Bay is a small village on Quadra Island, at the northern end of the Strait of Georgia. Sometime in 1951, Mrs. Laura McLean, together with her husband George McLean and her brother (now deceased) Major W.J. Wilby were on their way to the store in their boat, fishing as they went. The weather was "normal good weather" to quote Mrs. McLean. They were in Surge Narrows, between 100 and 200 yards from shore when they saw a strange creature, about 30 ft. away. It was about 40 ft. long and greenish grey in colour. Neither tail nor head were visible but they noticed a fin on the creature's back, resembling a cod fish fin - prickly and about 1 ft. in depth - running the full length of the back. No other details were visible. The creature was travelling at about 5 miles per hour moving up and down in a "snake-like movement". Mrs. McLean remarks that the "monster" caused the fish to disappear temporarily. She adds that her brother remarked that the creature is "catalogued - and is not remarkable, but merely rare". A xeroxed-copy of Mrs. McLean's sketch is reproduced below (Fig. 10) Mrs. McLean also mentions that she saw this creature at least three times, one having been in 1955.

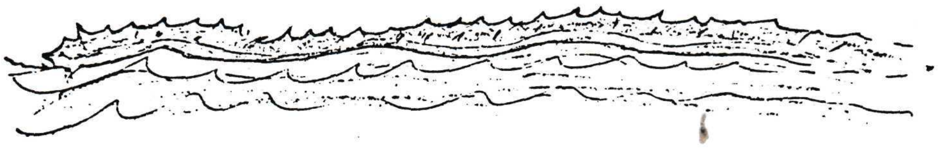


Fig.10. The animal seen by Mrs. McLean.

Comments

We have not been able to find out exactly what this creature should be, if it is indeed known and catalogued. The most likely candidate, in view of the length and of the long prickly find on the back, is the oar-fish, (Regaleus Glesne). Many "sea-serpent" sightings have been, rightly or wrongly, attributed to this rather rare, but cosmopolitan fish, and it may be that this is indeed what Mrs. McLean and her companions saw.

The up-and-down motion noticed by Mrs. McLean cannot be a "snake-like" movement, as snakes wriggle laterally. The oar fish interpretation is certainly consistent with lateral motion, but not with vertical oscillations.

1956 Spence

One morning in 1956, Mrs. E.F. Spence of Victoria was walking along Dallas Road, on the Clover Point side of Ross Bay. It was a "perfectly clear day", and there was a slight breeze from the southwest. The bay was full of small waves but there was a clear band free of waves at the entrance of the bay. Mrs. Spence noticed what she thought was a very large log, about 3 ft. by 40 ft. floating in the water about 25 ft. from the wave-free tide line. Suddenly there appeared what seemed to be a large branch coming up on one side of the log, falling quickly again into the water, as if the log with a branch on it, had rotated quickly back and forth. Simultaneously, the "log" moved in a direction parallel to the tide line, sideways to the wind. Needless to say, Mrs. Spence was rather puzzled at the behaviour of this piece of wood.

Upon closer inspection, she saw that this was no log at all, but a huge body, and that the moving branch was a neck, about 12 ft. long "tapered from the body to a head, very much the shape of a snake's head. When the neck was raised, the head was almost horizontal. He could turn it sideways and I could easily see his eye" relates Mrs. Spence. "The animal raised its head a few times, looking around, and lowering it again into the water, swinging it sideways, in the same motion as a swam feeding".

The body was smooth and "of the colour of beach driftwood". No means of propulsion were visible, nor humps of any kind; just a straight back, easily mistaken for a log.

Finally, Mrs. Spence looked around to see if anybody else was watching, and when she looked back, it had disappeared.

Comments

No precise date was provided for the sighting. What the animal was doing with its head underwater is a matter of pure speculation, but one may conjecture that it might have been feeding. One should add that Mrs. Spence had for years been reluctant to talk about this event for fear of ridicule.

1957 Erickson

On July 7th 1957 N. Erickson of Sointula, B.C. was navigating his fishing boat through Welcome Pass on his way back home from Vancouver. The sea was calm, the weather clear; it was about 8 p.m. and the sun was about to set. One mile west of the Merry Island Lighthouse, he came upon the animal which is sketched below. (Fig. 11) This is how Erickson relates the incident: "When I first spotted it, it was on my course of travelling. I noticed this object that I thought was a three foot driftwood, but getting closer, I noticed spalshing at one end which I thought was a duck trying to climb on this driftwood. Getting closer then I noticed like big nostrils on the other end and the splashing was that it was flipping his ears. It was only the head on the surface, (Fig.11a) so I got as close as 20 yards and it just submerged and disappeared. After I ran over him, he came to the surface just 15 feet behind the boat and then he turned my way and did not appear to be afraid of being so close. This time he came up so his body was so I could see two humps on his back, (Fig11b), but the sun was setting in back of the monster, so I could not see what kind of a back end he had, nor for sure how long it was. What I saw was about 12 to 15 feet long" ..."I kept the same speed but it didn't follow but I could see it still, just looking around as far back until I couldn't see it any more, so it did surface at least half an hour."

The animal was brown in colour; it had no mane, in spite of its equine appearance, but very short fur. Ears, eyes, mouth and nostrils (big and round, bigger than a horse's) were visible. It was about 12 feet long and 4 feet wide with two humps on its back.

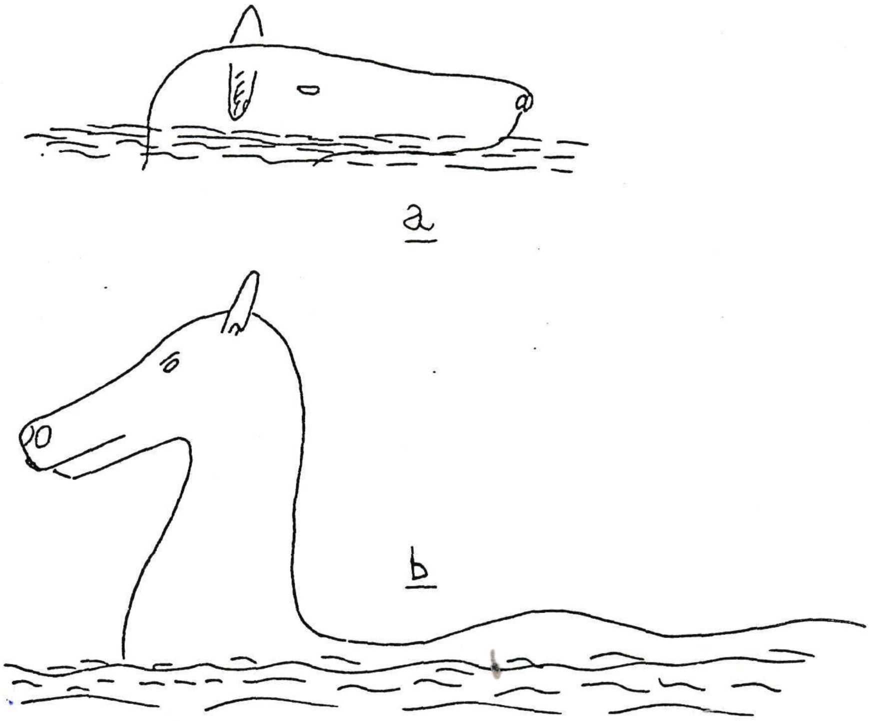


Fig. 11

The horse-headed animal seen by Mr. Erickson

a) first sight, head on surface.

b) second sight with more body emerging.

Comments

Soon after, Mr. Erickson wrote to The Province, a Vancouver newspaper, relating the incident, but his letter was not answered. Once more we notice the typical horse-head and prominent ears, observed flapping. The ears are thus very mobile and it is possible that they may not be seen at all when flat on the side of the head; we recall Mrs. Leighton's (1950) observation that no ears were visible. We also note that the position of the sun, setting behind the animal, is inconsistent with the direction of travel. A lapse in memory somewhere?

1958 McCord

"Well, you have broken me down", admits Mrs. Alison McCord, of Victoria, who in spite of years of seeing polite disbelief in the attitude of friends to whom she told her story, finally consented to tell us about what she saw off the sea-wall in Victoria.

It was in the autumn of 1958, late September or early October. At eight-thirty on that morning, Mrs. McCord was walking her dog along the seafront path on Dallas Road. It was not a sunny day, but it was very clear. Suddenly, she heard what sounded "like the bark of a large dog". There was no dog in sight however. Then she saw this Horse's head (or better, a pony's head) in a strip of debris and kelp off the point ahead of her, roughly 200-250 feet away. It was dark brown in colour, and with a beard,"not a hippie beard, but long and straggling much as that on an elderly Chinese". Mrs. McCord continues, saying that the animal "barked again, twice, and then started eating something, the head moving back and forth." Behind the head three humps were visible; the first hump was 3 to 3 1/2 feet behind the head. The first hump was "no higher than the head, the second slightly less, and the third smaller still. There was no sign of the tip of the tail". As Mrs. McCord tried to slowly approach the creature it just went "straight down, without a forward slant at all", and was not seen again. The whole incident only lasted a minute or two.

Comments

This report is extremely interesting, as it contains two previously unreported events. First, the animal's voice is heard; a bark, like that of a large dog. Secondly, it is seen feeding. On what? Perhaps on kelp, dangling bits of which might account for the long wispy beard unreported elsewhere. Once more, we hear that the animal submerged straight down, without diving motion.

1959 Miller

In direct response to our press coverage, Mr. David Miller, a professional fisherman from Victoria sent us the following letter and a sketch (Fig. 12) The letter is very much to the point and is quoted here in its entirety:

"Dear Sir

While engaged in commercial fishing one afternoon in later November 1959, my partner Alfred Webb and I observed this strange creature surface roughly 80 feet on our port beam. It started to move rapidly away from us so we speeded the engine up and gave chase. We got within 30 feet when it suddenly submerged, not in the method seals or sea-lions do but as though something pulled it under. A few minutes later we arrived at its place of submergence and there was a tremendous turbulence suggesting a creature the size of a 30 foot sei whale. Its speed under water was also astounding as it surfaced a few minutes later over a hundred yards away. It stayed up while we took off after it again but this time it never let us get close again.

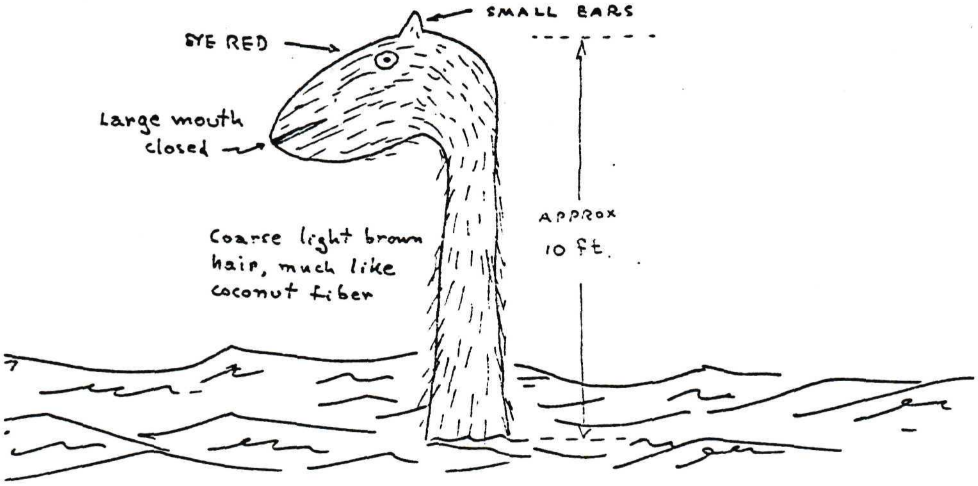


Fig. 12 The creature seen by David Miller

The first encounter was so close that both of us remarked about its large red eyes and short ears visible at that range.

Both of us have commercially fished on this coast since we were small boys and I was raised exclusively on the sea coast and have observed on many occasions groups of sea-lions and seals travelling to new grounds and to the unlearned do resemble something odd especially when the bull rears up, closely followed by several females. But this creature was something else again. I have also observed sea-elephants offshore and they look strange but not like this creature. Other fishermen friends of mine have also reported strange creatures much resembling the one we saw but are reluctant to report it to the papers or authorities because of the usual ridicule which follows such sightings. This creature was observed about 1/2 mile southeast of Discovery Island light and headed in the direction of Haro Strait.

My brother also saw this creature some months later in the vicinity of Raœ Rocks in Juan de Fuca Strait. I affirm the above facts are true and firmly believe what I saw.

Yours truly, David J. Miller"

Comments

We answered Mr. Miller's letter with thanks and a request for a similar report from his then-partner Mr. Alfred Webb and from his brother who is mentioned as having seen the animal some time later. This further query remained unanswered.

1961 Stout

The following report was sent to us by Mrs. E. Stout, of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The letter is rather long, but as most of it is directly informative, we reproduce most of it verbatim:

"About eight or nine years ago (the date can be accurately established) my sister-in-law, Mrs. Fred Parson and I, along with our two small sons (about 4 and 5 as I recall) were walking along the Dungeness sand spit. This was about the middle of March. It was a dark, drizzly, and quiet day. Ships in the channel were easily visible. We were at the beginning (westerly end) of the spit. We were watching a large freighter far out in the channel. It was moving up the straits toward Pt. Townsend. When it was about 45° N.E. and probably a quarter of a mile from us, we saw what we thought at first was a tree limb. It disappeared abruptly beneath the surface and in a few seconds appeared again, much closer. We could see that it was some kind of creature and distinctly saw that the large, flattish head was turned away from us and toward the ship. I think all of us gasped and pointed. We could distinctly see three "humps" behind the long neck. The animal was proceeding westward at an angle toward us. It sank abruptly again and reappeared closer, almost due north of us. In the dim light we could distinctly make out colour and pattern, a long floppy "mane", and the shape of the head. My small son grabbed me and started to cry with fear. At the same time the animal seemed to become aware of us and sank again. It reappeared in a few seconds, still proceding westward, but a little away from us. I reassured the youngster, saying that it was obviously wary of us. It sank and reappeared once more while near enough for us to observe it closely. My sister-in-law is a good photographer and had her 35 mm camera. We had time to discuss that she should try to get a picture of it. She said the light was too poor and the background of dull sea would not give any contrast. Mostly we were so busy exchanging notes and keeping track of the creature's progress that there was not time.

We estimated that the length of the exposed neck was at least 6 ft. and the head probably at least twenty inches long. As a trained including marine and fresh water biologist, I simply could not accept that long floppy mane or fin. Yet we all saw it. It was a limply hanging thing. We deduced that the humps were at least five feet. Again, I simply could not accept their arrangement. They were close together with no visible curve. If it had not been for the humps we would have said it resembled pictures of the herbivorous, marsh-living dinosaurs. We speculated that if it had a tail that it must be at least another six feet long. We did not see a tail, however, nor any limbs, although they could have been submerged.

The animal was a rich deep brown with large reticulations of a bright, burnt orange. The pattern wasn't unlike that of a giraffe except much larger. The fin appeared to be drab or colourless.

We could see no body movements, except that the neck lowered and moved backward with grace and the head swivelled, raised and lowered. It's forward progression was smooth, like a swan's. It sank and rose almost perpendicularly; although there was no indication of effort, it progressed westward, toward Pt. Angeles at a fair rate of speed. The whole episode lasting perhaps eight minutes.

We had a distinct impression that the creature was afraid of us, but not desperately so. It certainly had its head turned in our direction with occasional turning even further as if checking on the continued progress of the ship moving in the opposite direction.

We later asked friends living on the bluff if they had ever observed any large, unusual animals, receiving a negative reply.

My sister-in-law is almost militantly prosaic, refusing to accept almost any explanation for phenomena, experienced by others or even herself, that are not well established and common. I, on the other hand, enjoy speculation and discussion about subjects not necessarily verified by factual evidence. Even so, I think that I am an objective witness. The reactions in both small boys, without any promptings, to me was reinforcement to we adults accepting the evidence of our own eyes."

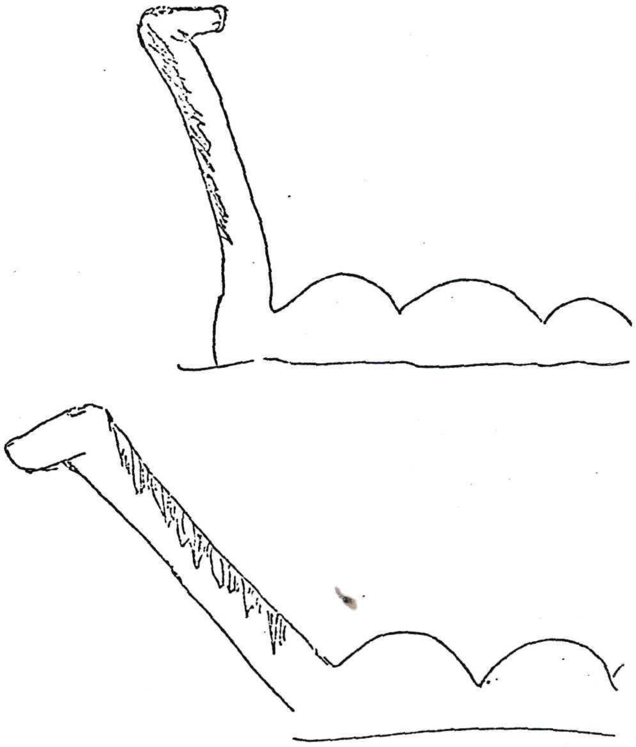


Fig. 13 The animal seen by Mrs. Stout off Dungeness Spit

Above: Looking backwards

Below: Looking forwards

Comments

A sketch accompanied the letter and has been reproduced in (Fig. 13) It is a pity that no photo was taken in spite of the poor light and apparent lack of contrast.

1964 Young

Mr. Robert Young, of Edmonds, Wash., is a veteran of more than 50 voyages along the B.C. Coast, between Seattle and Bristol Bay, Alaska In the fall of 1964, around 7:30 a.m., his ship was steaming through Lama Passage, between Cliff Point and Serpent Point. The sun was up, the weather clear and the sea calm. An object attracted Mr. Young's attention, 200-250 yards ahead. He first took it to be a log, standing on end, and thought he might have to alter course to avoid it. He then noticed a seagull, diving at the object and noticed that it was shiny and that sunlight reflected off it, as off an oil drum. As he passed by it, he observed it with his binoculars and saw that it was the head of a huge animal, as big as a walrus, but without tusks or whiskers. The head was big and rounded, with "hard" looking skin, such as on a killer whale or on a porpoise. Only the shoulders and the head were emerging and no mane or other whiskers were visible, The animal submerged vertically, as if pulled under and was not seen again.

Comments

No sketch accompanied the magnetic tape sent by Mr. Young. The northern elephant-seal is sometimes seen in these waters (Pike and MacAskie, 1969), and one might imagine that Mr. Young saw a specimen of this very large seal, were it not that he did not mention the rather distinctive nose of that animal. However, Mr. Young adds that he was told on a later trip of a similar sighting in which a "big grippy" nose was clearly evident and seems to think that this was the same kind of animal that he saw. For lack of more definite distinctive features, we must admit the possibility that it was indeed a northern elephant seal that was glimpsed by Mr. Young.

1968 Scott

On February 13, 1968, at about 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Jean Scott was sitting on the porch of her home, on Crane Island, when she heard a kind of blowing sound. She first thought it was a whale, but what she saw convinced her that it was no whale, or any other animal that she had ever seen. The creature was about 150 ft. from shore, the sea was very calm; it was sunny and the visibility was excellent. Mrs. Scott and her husband watched it until sunset. They describe it as "very large", with "grey skin" and "lengthwise ridges". Its neck was long, and "definitely smaller than the head" in diameter. The head itself was 18 to 24 inches long and shaped like the head of a cod. The animal blew (see Fig. 14) from its mouth, not from a blow hole, and vapour was visible in the breath exhaled from the wide-open mouth. Mrs. Scott contrasts this behaviour with that of seals which she has seen, which breath quietly through their noses. It seemed to be feeding on the bottom, as its head was submerged most of the time, and raised only slowly on occasion to blow. The strange creature moved about rather sluggishly, just floating so it seemed, except on one occasion when a gull flew close as though it might land on it. That move, of about 25 ft, was so fast that Mrs. Scott could not see how it was done. No fin, flipper or any other details were visible.

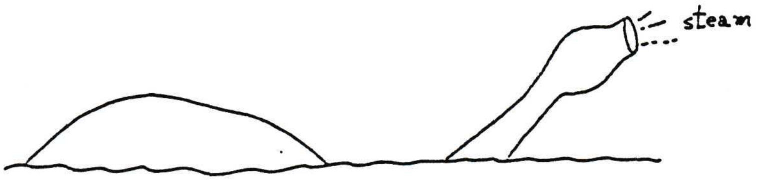


Fig. 14 The Crane Island Beast.

Comments

In answer to Mrs. Scott's first letter, we suggested that she might have seen an elephant-seal. This, she denied vigorously, saying that she had seen pictures of such an animal on television and in books and that this animal did not resemble an elephant-seal at all, nor any kind of seal or sea-lion.

1969 Leonard

Mr. F.M. Leonard, mate aboard the Mary Foss, a tug of the Foss Towboat Company wrote to us about an animal which he saw at sea in the last week of October 1969. The sighting occured about two miles north of the Tree Point Lighthouse, about 40 miles south of Ketchikan, Alaska. Mr. Leonard was on watch in the wheelhouse when he saw the animal "almost dormant in the water", about 200 yards on the shore side of the tug (which was then 1 1/2 miles off shore). It was about 2 p.m.; it was a clear day and the sea was relatively calm.

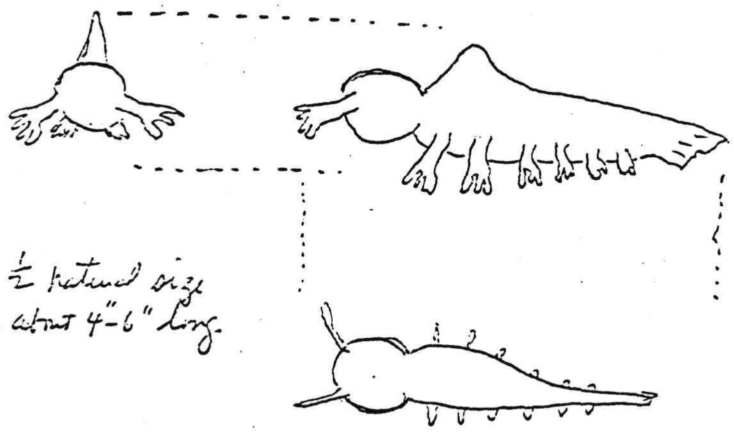
Leonard had a clear view of the animal in his binoculars for about three minutes, as the Mary Foss steamed by. It was about 12 to 16 ft. in length, about 4 feet wide at the water line and about four feet of it stuck out of the water. It's most noticeable feature was its wrinkly nose, 15 to 18 inches wide, which looked rubbery and pulsed, perhaps with the animal's breathing. The skin was dark brown and a small eye was visible. Leonard syas that the animal was as big as a very big walrus, but without tusks. It did not "seem overly curious or frightened - kind of stupid".

Comments

This description is extremely suggestive of an elephant-seal. The northern elephant-seal breeds of California and Mixico, but large males are occasionally seen off along the coast in the summer. (Pike and MacAskie, 1969)

1969 Harper

In November 1969, Mr. Charles Harper was standing on the ferry pier at Denman Island, B.C. He saw, floating near the surface, the creature illustrated below. (Fig. 15)



Approx. ½ natural size
It was about 4-6" long.

Fig. 15 A hooded nudibranch, seen at Denman Island

It swam "awkwardly and spasmodically by violent side beats of the tail, with the "head" and appendages flailing".

Comments

We answered Mr. Harper that in our opinion, his sketch and description fitted a specimen of the hooded nudibranch (*Chioraera leonia*), swimming upside down. We also pointed out that we were interested in somewhat larger animals.

3.2 Second-hand Reports

The information presented in the following reports is considered less reliable than that contained in the sightings reviewed in section 3.1, either because it came to us only second-hand or, in one case because the witness chose to remain anonymous.

1892 (Dudoward, C.H.)

Mr. Charles Dudoward, from Port Simpson, B.C. related the following story, which he heard from grandfathers and many old people when he was a small boy. In 1892, the Hudson Bay Company moved their post in that area from the Nass River to Port Simpson and employed many local Indians in the construction of the new post. One hundred and fifty men in fifty canoes were towing in a large log boom (more than 100 ft. across) when all of a sudden their tow stopped and seemed to pull back the 50 canoes against the current. After hours of strong paddling, the boom moved, but pulled heavy. At last, at dusk, they managed to beach the big raft at high tide. The following morning, at low tide, they found "underneath the boom of logs a crushed octopus larger than the big raft". The arms showed on both sides of the raft. One arm reported to be more than 100 ft. in length, terminated in a big hook. The suckers on the tentacles were "as big a basin plate, to saucer size at the ends". The corpse was later towed out to sea.

Comments

Is this another *Architeuthis*? It is intriguing that in both Dudoward's descriptions only one very long tentacle is reported.

1918 (Morris)

Mr. Harry Morris of Sumner, Washington read about our survey in the Tacoma News Tribune and recalled that he had heard of a strange creature while fishing out of Neah Bay, in 1918. He did not see it himself, but "made a drawing of one on paper from those who had claimed to have seen one". This animal was "about 20 ft. long, with 12 ft. of body and 8 ft. of neck; the neck was about 8 inches in diameter and the head about a foot long, slimmer than a horse-head, with eyes like a horse and a mouth which ran two-thirds of the way back in the head. It opened its mouth like a snake". Finally, "the body was shaped like a swan's, but only the top could be seen. No one seemed to know if it had feet or fins".

Comments

Mr. Morris did not send the sketch that he mentions. Further we could not find out how many witnesses had contributed to this description. Because of the absence of further details and of the possible composite nature of this report, not to speak of the fact that it comes to us second-hand, we cannot include the above measurements in our data and must simply content ourselves with taking this description as another indication of the ubiquity of such animals in the Strait of Georgia-Puget Sound System.

1930's (Rockwell)

After reading in the Portland Oregonian of our interest in sea-monsters, Mrs. Mabel Jones, a long time aficionado of the subject wrote to us about an incident she had heard of from a Mr. Jack Rockwell, the son of an eye-witness.

Sometime in the late 1930's Mr. Rockwell senior, a fisherman from Hoquiam or Aberdeen, Washington, was fishing with several other men in their boats near the mouth of the Chehalis River, when the saw "a head about the size of a barrel, with tentacles or sea-weed hanging down from it, a long neck and at least three humps or undulations visible at a time along its back. It moved in and out among the boats and was clearly seen by several of the men, who would swear as to the truth of the matter".

Comments

This is already third-hand evidence of course and an on-the-spot investigation among fishermen of Hoquiam or Aberdeen would be required to confirm it. It is nevertheless very reminiscent of many similar reports, even though poor in details, which have perhaps been lost in the telling. We wrote to Mr. Rockwell, but our letter came back stamped "address incomplete".

1944 (?) (Dudoward, C.H.)

The date of this event is rather uncertain. Dudoward, in his letter of November 29, 1969, says that is was "some 25 years past". This story involves a "double-headed" monster. Its first encounter was with a fisherman, in whose nets it became entangled. The unfortunate fisherman, whose nets were ruined, describes the culprit as "not a whale" but something like it with 2 heads and a long tail". Three days later Dudoward's late brother Fred, was pulling in his nets near Finlayson Island. Near him, each in his own boat, were two other fishermen, Bud Helme and Ivarson, a Swede. Every so often, Fred heard a whistling noise. Fearing that his engine might be running hot, he checked it and then went down into the after-hold to inspect the mainbearing. Finding everything in order, he climbed back on deck, only to hear the whistling noise again, louder this time. Turning in the direction of the noise, he found himself facing a double-headed monster, about 100 yards away. He immediately cut his lines and ran home (Simpson Wharf). The other two fishermen followed close behind, also abandoning their nets.

Concerning the apperance of the creature, "it really had two heads joined together and two lumps appeared behind. It dived under water, that is just the two heads, but leaving the two lumps still out of the water. Every time the two heads are out of the water, it blew a spray of water like steam and sounded like a hot bearing or whistled like a hot bearing" ..."The colour is brownish, no hair but shiny like the skin of a porpoise or whale. The eyes are wicked they say and mouth not big, no horns; they do not remember seeing any ears"..."The two heads they say is like a beaver's head but a tremendous size but uglier and wicked"

Dudoward sketched the animal under the eye-witnesses' guidance, following a technique analogous to those used by the police for criminal identification. After 24 sketches the witnesses agreed that a true likeness had been reached. A photocopy of Dudoward's colour sketch is shown here. (Fig. 16) Dudoward reports that the animal was observed again a week later by other fishermen; it was then heading south in Grenville Channel.

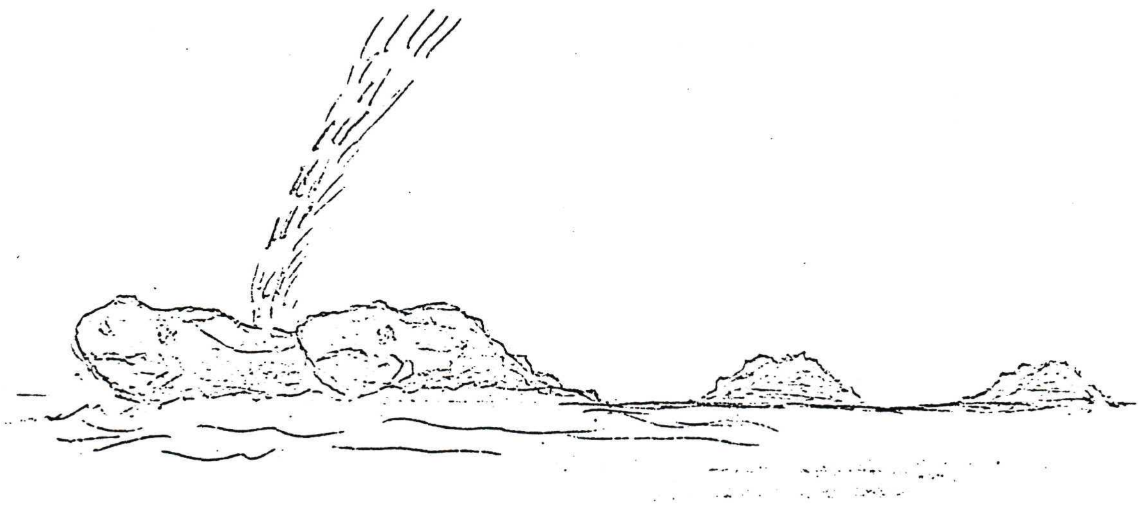


Fig. 16 The "double-headed" sea monster seen near Finlayson Island.

Comments

Tales of two-headed animals are hard to swallow! Assuming that what we have here is a pair of animals swimming in unison, their characteristics are extremely suggestive of whales: the "blowing of water" at each surfacing, the smooth hairless skin and the small "wicked eyes". This interpretation still leaves much unexplained. The Port Simpson fishermen would be expected to be familiar with all kinds of whales seen on the B.C. coast and would have recognized any type already known to them.

1946 (Liston)

This is a report which we solicited from Miss Liston, of Nanaimo, after hearing that her father had seen a very strange animal while fishing many years ago. Mr. Liston is dead and his daughter was not with him at the time of the sighting but she recalls the following, as told to her by her father:

"In regards to your letter enquiring about a sea-monster seen by my father, twenty-four years ago. I am sorry I was not with him to witness it. He was fishing in a thirty-five foot boat for cod, on a clear calm afternoon, near Graves Point, Crofton, when he saw a strange thing, at a distance, and thought that if it was Caddy, he was determined to get a good look at it, so he went over, and it swam slowly to nearly fifteen from the boat, so that he had a good chance to see it. The body underwater was very large and deep, the back had two humps, with a big fin. The head was shaped like a camel's and on the nose was a big red spot. He then wondered if it would attack, but it turned slowly and swam away. It was not a sea-lion or a whale. I am not not sure of its size and colour..."

Comments

This is the only report that we have of a "big red spot" on the animal's nose, but, there are two reports of red eyes (1946 Grist, 1959 Miller). Could the red spot have been an eye?

1946 Anonymous

This description has a certain ring of authenticity to it but must be put in this second category, as it is unsigned. It is reproduced here in its entirety, as it is fairly short.

"Back in our log, I came across a passage that might interest you.

On May 4th, 1946 we were crossing from Marble Bay (Stuart), Texada Island, to Jervis Inlet. The sea had been rough. Before we got to the kelp beds off Scotch Fir Point, we noticed something moving around on the sea. We stopped our engine as we neared it, and drifted. This thing had a triangular head which it kept moving around as it watched us. A long thin neck - we guessed 3-4 ft. which tapered. We saw 2 coils, and guessed it to be 25-30 ft. long. It idled around watching us - when we speeded up the engine to get a little closer , it just gave a wriggle and disappeared below the surface. We waited and it reappeared again, still idling and moving its head around.

Within an hour, two people from Stillwater, and a tug-boat captain reported the same thing. The horse-shaped head describes it.

Comments

One should, of course, investigate on the spot, in Stillwater. We have not yet done so. It is interesting to note that a triangular head is also described as horse-shaped. There are clearly many ways to describe a strange creature, depending on one's point of view. It is not clear whether the "coils" completely emerged in loops out of the water or were just visible as a hump.

1961 Witschi

This is a truly fascinating and unique report for which we must unfortunately rely on second-hand evidence, having been unable to trace the witness. The story was related to us by Dr. John Green, of Memorial University, Newfoundland, who knew the witness, Mr. Rudi Witschi, when he was a graduate student at U.B.C.

The incident occured about a dozen years ago, on the shores of Juan de Fuca Strait near Port Renfrew. Mr. Witschi was operating a bulldozer at the time. He first saw the animal while it was still some distance offshore and swimming fast. It hauled itself on the rocks several hundred feet from where Witschi sat on his machine. According to Mr. Witschi, he and the "monster" looked at each other for some time and then he (Witschi) became frightened and left the site.

The animal was massive, and about 11 feet in length, including the tail, which was 3-4 feet long and dorso-ventrally depressed (like a beaver's tail). The tail may have been only 4-5 inches in diameter. The head was very large, bulbous in shape, two or three feet in diameter. The eyes were the size of large saucers and round in shape. No ears were seen. There were definite legs rather than fins of flippers. These legs were short but very thick, like an elephants legs. The mouth was large with large visible teeth. No hair was evident and the skin looked relatively smooth.

Dr. Green adds that he showed Mr. Witschi pictures of all the different sea-mammals in the North Pacific but that he identified none of them as being the "monster" he had seen.

Comments

A sea-monster on land! If this report is to be trusted, there are a number of unique observations here which could account for many hitherto unexplained or unseen characteristics of such animals. The animal described is apparently phocine. It is rather smaller than many other horse, camel or giraffe-headed monster seen at sea. Perhaps it is a juvenile specimen. This would account for the rather bulbous appearance of the head, which would be expected to elongate with age into the adult form. The presence of large elephantine legs indicates that this animal has not adapted as completely to marine conditions as have the seals and the whales, where the limbs have changed into flippers or have nearly vanished altogether. The large eyes and teeth suggest that it might be a deep-swimming predator. The flat tail and the form of the legs also indicate that it must propel itself with its tail, as the legs would be useless for submarine propulsion.

As this information is extremely important, it should be checked by interviewing Mr. Witschi in person. We have not succeeded in tracing him.

3.3 Ancillary Evidence

The following items are presented as ancillary evidence relevant to the matter. The choice is rather ecletic, as we could not display all the newspaper clippings and pure hearsay reports that came our way.

The Skagit River Atlatl.

It was pointed out to us by Mr. Paul Tennant that a carving on an atlatl (spear-thrower) from the Skagit River was remarkably similar to Heuvelmans' representation of a type of "sea-monster" often observed on this coast and called by him the Merhorse. This artifact is reproduced in Hawthorn (1967 Fig. 517, p. 365) and as a good photocopy could not be obtained from the photographer, a line drawing is shown here. (Fig. 17)

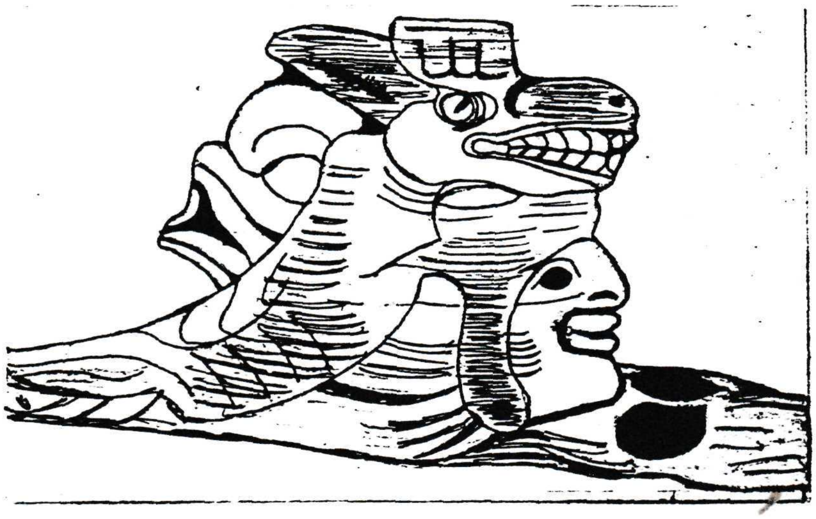


Fig. 17 Skagit River Atlatl, From Hawthorn (1967)

The head shown on top of the human head has a long snout, visible nostrils, large teeth and stylized horns. Large ears are shown. The fin(s) on the back of the neck hint at its marine origin. Only a segment of tubular neck is represented with traces of folds in the skin at the junction with the head.

Comments

Is this really a representation of the often-seen horse-headed "sea-monster"? The anatomy is similar, but one should be vary wary of strict interpretation of North West Indian pictorial or sculptural animal representations. We have seen for example in the Vancouver City Museum a magnificent carved argillite bowl showing a "sea-monster" holding three killer whales, one in its jaws, one with its tail, one with ...its left ear!

1812 (Jones)

Mrs. Mabel Jones, of Eugene, Oregon, also wrote to us that she recalled reading a number of years ago, in the Library of the Oregon Historical Society, a small book written by a missionary who had come to Vancouver Island in about 1812 to Christianize the Indians, who had been corrupted by white traders.

This missionary reported "that an old Indian had told him of the carcass of a strange serpent-like creature that had been tossed on the rocks of Vancouver Island long before by a storm and that no one could identify it. It was not a whale, as they were familiar with them and hunted them. He said that the bones had remained there for many years.

Comments

This is historical evidence of a kind which one can hardly rely upon in a critical survey. It is included here as a reminder that sightings of "sea-monsters" antedate the arrival of the white man on this coast.

1967 Sunday Oregonian

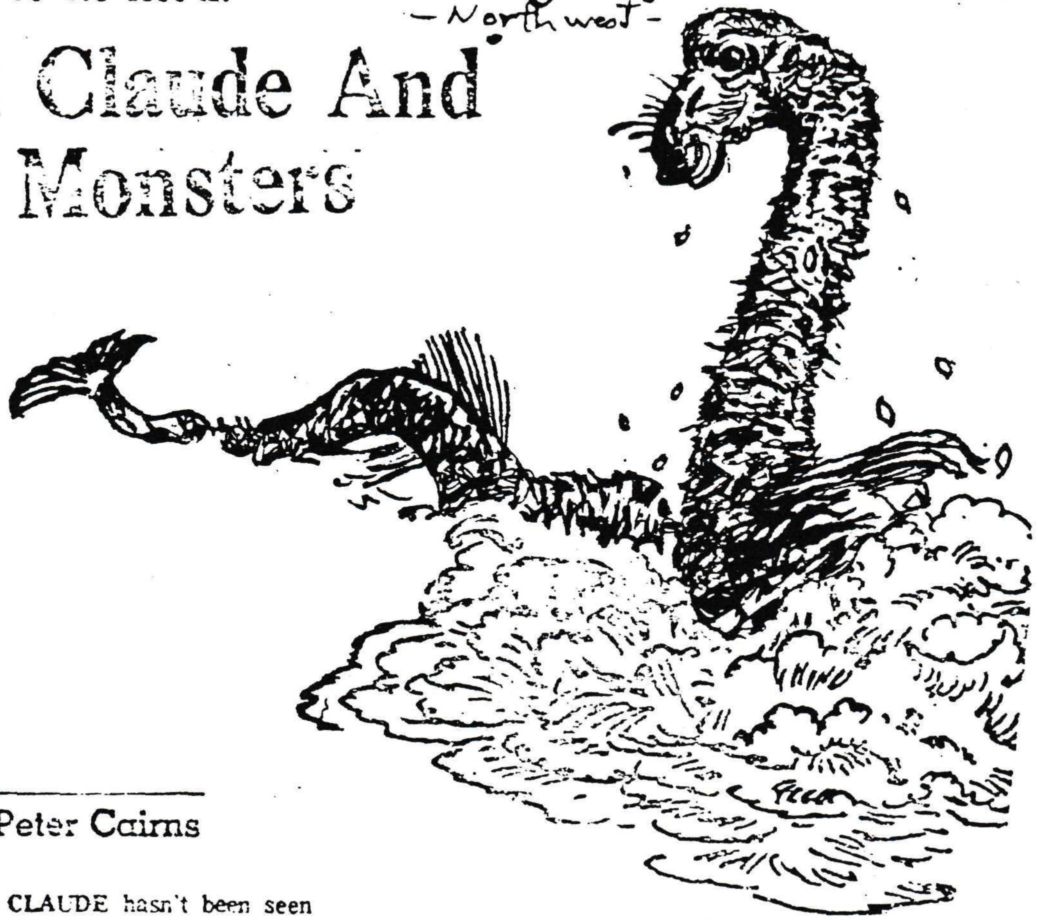
Our survey has concentrated on sightings in British Columbia waters and this is where most of our reports originate. Nevertheless, there seems to be ample evidence for such creatures appearing in other areas of the coast of the Northeast Pacific Ocean. As ancillary evidence we include here a photocopy of an article published by Mr. Peter Cairns in the Sunday Oregonian (Portland) of September 24, 1967.

"It was about 40 feet long. It had a neck . . . eight feet long, a big round body, a mean looking tail and an evil, snaky look to its head."

Sept 24
1967.

The Sunday Oregonian M
— Northwest —

Colossal Claude And The Sea Monsters



By Peter Cairns

COLOSSAL CLAUDE hasn't been seen for some time, but Marvin the Monster is reportedly alive and well. He's even appeared on television.

. Claude was first seen cavorting near the mouth of the Columbia River in 1934. Over the years he was often sighted by Columbia River lightship crewmen and by passing fishermen. But the once-familiar sea serpent hasn't shown up since the mid-1950s.

Marvin is a comparative newcomer. He was first discovered swimming off the Oregon Coast by Shell Oil Co. divers in 1963. His presence was recorded by video tape cameras, later screened for study by the nation's leading marine biologists.

You probably didn't know it, but Oregon is wonderful country for serpent seekers. In addition to Claude and Marvin, the watery denizens have been sighted off Newport, Bandon, Nelscott, Waldport, Empire, Delake, and also in Crescent and Crater Lakes.

They come in several varieties and sizes. Some are shiny and some have scales. Some reportedly have coarse fur. There is even a variety of mini-monster, for the compact minded.

One thing they usually have in common is the shape of their heads. Observers say they are most often found to be like those of the camel, or horse.

For a long time, it looked as though Colossal Claude, as he came to be known, would provide the state's chief competition for Scotland's legendary Loch Ness Monster. He was seen by reputable witnesses, although there undoubtedly were some tall tales told about him, too.

L. A. Larson, mate of the Columbia River lightship, was probably the first to see Claude. That was back in 1934. Other members of the crew confirmed the sighting as did the captain and members of the crew of the lightship tender Rose.

"It was about 40 feet long," said Larson. "It had a neck some eight feet long, a big round body, a mean looking tail and an evil, snaky look to its head."

A news story of the day reported: "Members of the crew (of the lightship), after studying it for some time with field glasses, wanted to lower a boat and go after it, but the officers discouraged the plan for fear it would swamp the boat."

Claude next popped into the news in

1937, when skipper Charles E. Graham of the troller Viv raced back to Astoria with the story of sighting a "long, hairy, tan colored creature, with the head of an overgrown horse, about 40 feet long, and with a 4-feet waist measure."

Veteran fishermen gazed out over the bar (the Columbia Bar, that is) and said: "It's Claude."

This latest report was apparently enough for "Grubs" Herrold, of Naselle, Wash. He promptly laid plans to build a serpent cannery at Ilwaco. He proposed taking over the huge Pioneer Packing Co. plant, but abandoned all of his grand plans when it was pointed out that the building would be barely big enough to handle the serpent's eggs.

Claude was repeatedly sighted through the years that followed, once by Captain Chris Anderson of the schooner Argo. He said he got a face to face look at Claude.

Despite all . . . learned thinking, the who and what of Old Hairy was never satisfactorily explained.

"His head was like a camel's," he said. "His fur was coarse and gray. He had glassy eyes and a bent snout that he used to push a 20-pound halibut (which he took off our lines) into his mouth."

Other Oregon monsters that have competed for the headlines over the years include:

Bandon's mini-monster, a 12½-foot animal with a bulbous nose and a cow-like body covered with brownish hair.

—A 30-foot serpent with "a slender neck, a snake-like head, and a fan-shaped tail" seen by more than 30 people at Nelscott. The "thing" splashed around the Nelscott reefs on several occasions. One group of observers was considered extremely reliable—its members were on a WCTU outing from the Willamette Valley. (Astoria fishermen merely nodded and commented: "It's Claude. He's just exploring.")

Proximity of Whiskey Run reef apparently had nothing to do with the sighting of a sea monster off Empire a few years ago. Ben Tanner, skipper of the troller Gold Coast, said the creature approached his fishing boat, "smacked its mouth, rolled its long-lashed eyes at the crew, then pointed its tail in the air and dived straight down."

Oregon Indians, of course, believe there is a monster in just about every fair-sized pool of water in the state. Their legends are full of such stories.

There is paleface corroboration, however, for monster sightings in both Crater and Crescent lakes. The latter, in particular, is said to have an unusual inhabitant that has been sighted several times, although not recently.

One day Henry Schwering and Bert Vincent were fishing on the lake.

Henry later reported: "I suddenly noticed that the fish had stopped biting. Then I noticed fish scooting away and the water started boiling. Then I saw a huge, round head break water not far from the boat. I was so excited and flustered I was unable to say anything for a minute. Then I yelled to Bert, but by the time he looked around it was gone."

Next day Bert Vincent saw the "thing" himself, as did others on the lakeshore.

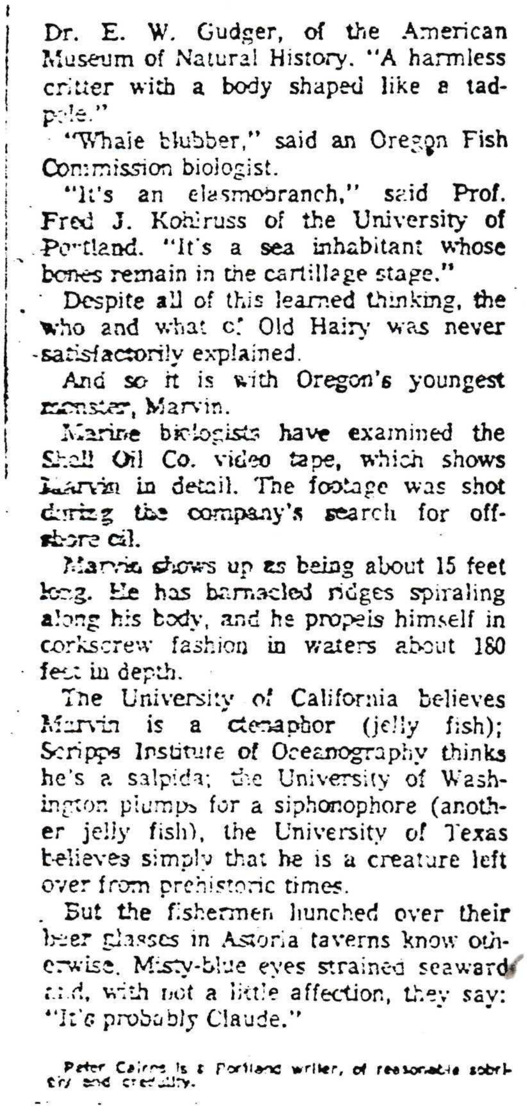
Reports that a 22-foot hairy-chested monster had been washed up on the beach at Delake brought people hurrying to the spot on March 4, 1950.

What brought them running was Old Hairy (as the locals quickly dubbed him).

"It has the body of a cow, approximately nine tails, and is covered with hair or feathers all over the body and legs," ran one enthusiastic account.

Pretty teen-ager Marybell Allum of Delake was the first to stumble on Old Hairy. Then her dad, town marshall [illegible] Allum, had a look. He said the monster weighed all of 1,000 pounds.

"It's a whale shark, undoubtedly," said



Dr. E. W. Gudger, of the American Museum of Natural History. "A harmless critter with a body shaped like a tadpole."

"Whale blubber," said an Oregon Fish Commission biologist.

"It's an elasmobranch," said Prof. Fred J. Kohlruss of the University of Portland. "It's a sea inhabitant whose bones remain in the cartillage stage."

Despite all of this learned thinking, the who and what of Old Hairy was never satisfactorily explained.

And so it is with Oregon's youngest monster, Marvin.

Marine biologists have examined the Shell Oil Co. video tape, which shows Marvin in detail. The footage was shot during the company's search for offshore oil.

Marvin shows up as being about 15 feet long. He has barnacled ridges spiraling along his body, and he propels himself in corkscrew fashion in waters about 180 feet in depth.

The University of California believes Marvin is a ctenaphor (jelly fish); Scripps Institute of Oceanography thinks he's a salpida; the University of Washington plumps for a siphonophore (another jelly fish), the University of Texas believes simply that he is a creature left over from prehistoric times.

But the fishermen hunched over their beer glasses in Astoria taverns know otherwise. Misty-blue eyes strained seaward and, with not a little affection, they say: "It's probably Claude."

Peter Cairns is a Portland writer, of reasonable sobriety and credulity.

Comments

Some of the sightings reported by Cairns are reminiscent of some of our eye-witness reports; the horse (or camel) head, a rather long neck, a furry body.... These reports are, however, known to us only second-hand, through Cairns' article, and as we don't know how he gathered his data we are not prepared, in the context of this survey, to consider such sightings as reliable as those that we obtained directly from eye witnesses. Someone, perhaps Cairns himself, should be encouraged to present the data in a critical form, somewhat in the way we have attempted to do here.

3.4 Summary of the Evidence

The incidents just related range over more than 1000 miles of coast, from Oregon to the Alaskan Panhandle, (see maps,p.59ff), and over more than 60 years in time. We will delay a general discussion of the evidence on "sea-monsters" in the area until later, bringing together our data and Heuvelmans'. Right now, it seems appropriate to summarize the new data collected by us.

It is at first sight surprising that none of the witnesses mentioned by Heuvelmans answered our open quest for information on the subject. The only overlap between Heuvelmans' data and ours is the Pantages 1947 sighting near Vancouver, and we wrote directly to Mr. Pantages for that. Many explanations may be advanced for this almost total lack of overlap. People are often shy about mentioning such experiences to the press, as they invariably become the object of ridicule on the part of scoffers. Not a few of our witnesses mentioned this reluctance. Heuvelmans, relying as he was on information published in print, could not possibly unearth such sightings. The fact that our survey was associated with an Institute of the University of British Columbia, the principal institution of higher learning in B.C., may have allayed the fears of many potential witnesses. One may imagine that those who had already revealed their experiences to the press, and whose testimony was gleaned by Heuvelmans, decided that they had already done their bit for science and did not feel it worthwhile going through the whole publicity process again.

Has the survey proved exhaustive? We do not think so. We have on file about a dozen unanswered letters sent to people whom we were told, by witnesses or acquaintances, had also seen strange marine creatures. We plan to follow these leads and to remain on the lookout for further information.

The reports discussed above fall into two distinct classes:

1) sightings of animals which are already known (but not recognized by the observer), or which might be accounted for by already known animals. Thus we have reports of giant squids, elephant seals, a nudibranch and perhaps an oar fish or two. These reports are only of limited interest in the present context. They add a note of veracity to the whole exercise, as it is unlikely that everyone will be familiar with every sea creature and only natural that an unfamiliar animal be sometimes described as a "sea-monster". They may also provide information on the limits of the habitat of species rarely observed or only occasionally seen in this area.

2) sightings which cannot be accounted for by any known creature, of "sea-monster" or "sea serpent" in the usual sense of the word. These sightings are the only ones that we will discuss further.

4. Discussion of Sightings

4.1 The New Evidence

The salient features of all sightings concerning unidentified animals which cannot be explained away by invoking wandering oarfish, elephant seals or other known animals are presented together in Table I. There are many similar features evident in the table; the colour for example is almost always brown. It is tempting to attempt a classification of the sightings through a careful analysis of the available data, grouping common features into groups which hopefully will also be distinguished through exclusive characteristics. Naturally, after reading Heuvelmans' book, it is impossible not to be somewhat biased by the results of his classification. In order that all factors influencing our judgement in our choice of categories be clear to the reader, we have tabulated the properties of Heuvelmans' Merhorse and Long-Necked marine monsters in Table II. These two types are most similar to the descriptions we have in hand, and previous sightings in the area have been fitted in these categories by Heuvelmans.

A first attempt to place the new sightings into Heuvelmans' two categories proves futile. For the Merhorse is always reported to have a reddish mane, huge eyes, and no more than one hump visible on its back. There are only three or perhaps four animals in our table (1937, X,Y; 1961, Stout and 1930 (Rockwell) and perhaps 1958, McCord, where the mane could have been mistaken for a beard) which have a mane. All of these either lack the huge eyes, or have horns and more than three humps, characteristics of the Long-Necked type. Similarly, the animals for which horns are mentioned either have a mane (1937, X,Y) or noticeable big eyes (1947, Pantages). So much for external bias!

It is clear that we must choose a striking or easily recognized characteristic to begin our classification. We believe that the size of the eyes

Table I

Data relevant to all observations which cannot even remotely be accounted for by observations of known animals.

Table II

Characteristics of Heuvelmans' Merhorse and Long-Necked sea monsters.

Table III

Characteristics of sightings reported by Heuvelmans for which some information is available on physical features. The letters on the left below the name of the witness (first column) refer to Heuvelmans' classification, those on the right refer to ours.

TABLE I

SIGHTING YEAR	HEAD	EYES	EARS/HORNS	MOUTH	HAIR	NECK	BODY	FIN	COLOR	OTHER DETAILS	SPEED	DIVING	LENGTH	BEHAVIOUR	SWIMMING MOT
1905 Welch 2a	Giraffe	small	horns		No	long, 6-8 f			Brown	Nostrils	6-7 knots	without disturbance			
1922 Cook 1		large timid		Yes		7 feet			Brown "scaly"	Nostrils	6 knots		25 ft	interested in surroundings looked gentle	head movi and forth snake
1937 X, Y 2a	Horse - X Giraffe - Y	(small)	Ears - X Horns - Y ?		Mane	15-20 ft	Ridge on back, no humps			tail longer than body	25-30 kts		55 ft	curious	no visible p pelling motio
1939 Tildesley 2a	Small					6-10 ft			Greenish-yellow		very fast	no disturbance			
1939 Sowerby 1	large, 1-3 ft. wide	Huge										sunk straight down		blinked	
1940 Luoma 2b	Large, 6 ft wide	On the side (he believes not seen)		in central position			3 loops, round					thrashing about	50-75 ft		
1946 Nilsen 2b	Sheep	wicked					2 Loops	yes, dorsal	Putty		rapid wake				
1946 Grist 1	Riding horse	Very red				6 ft			Sea-weed brown			without a ripple		watched witness' dog	
1947 Pantages 1	Horse	Big green	horns or ears				2-3 humps		Dark					snorted	swam with up motion like a catepillar
1948 Kline 2a	extension of neck	small		large		thick - 3ft across 15 ft long		2 small fins	same as harbour seal		7-8 knots		30 ft	neck at 30^0 to horizontal	
1950 Leighton 2a	horse		no ears						slate brown			just disappeared			
1956 Spence 1	snake	yes (easily seen)				12 ft	straight back		beach driftwood				40 ft		
1957 Erickson 2a	horse	yes (small)	ears mobile	yes	no mane		2 humps		brown	big nostrils			15 ft.		
1958 McCord 2a	pony				beard		3 humps		dark brown			straight down		barked, was eating	

TABLE I (cont'd)

SIGHTING YEAR	HEAD	EYES	EARS HORNS	MOUTH	HAIR	NECK	BODY	FIN	COLOR	OTHER DETAILS	SPEED	DIVING	LENGTH	BEHAVIOUR	SWIMMING MO
1959 Miller 1		large red	short ears	large	hair like coconut fibre	10 ft			light brown		very fast	as if pulled under	30 ft		
1961-2 Stout 2a	large flattish				long floppy mane	6 ft	3 humps		deep brown		fast	vertical abruptly			Smooth motion swan neck mov and forth wit
1968 Scott 2a	cod								grey		sluggish one fast spurt		very large	visible breath	
TABLE I - Second-hand Reports...															
1918 Morris ⓧ	horse	like a horse		large		8 ft	like a swan's						20 ft		
1930's Rockwell ⓧ	The size of a barrel				mane like seaweed	long	3 humps								
1944 Dudoward 2a	Beaver	wicked	no	not big			2 humps		brown					whistling noise - doubleheaded 2 creatures	
1946 Liston ⓧ	Camel						2 humps	dorsal					very large	big red spot on nose	
1946 Anon. 2b	triangular horse-shape					3-4 ft, thin	2 coils					dived with a wriggle	25-30 ft		
1960 Witschi 1	large bulbous	like saucers	no	large, with teeth	no skin smooth					3-4 ft			11 ft	elephantine legs	
TABLE II															
Mer-horse	horse or camel, tapering	very large	no	wide thick lips	reddish mane facial bristles	medium lenth	one hump only	no	brown		fast	?	30-60 ft		movement by vertical oscillations
Long necked	small seal, dog, horse, giraffe - round	very small	two small horns	small	no mane	long slender flexible	massive 2-3 hump ridge	4 webbed feet	dark on top light below		very fast 15-35 knots		15-65 ft	head swings when swimming	

TABLE III

SIGHTING YEAR	HEAD	EYES	EARS HORNS	MOUTH	HAIR	NECK	BODY	FIN	COLOR	OTHER DETAILS	SPEED	DIVING	LENGTH	BEHAVIOUR	Heuvelmans Page #	SWIMMING M
1912 Forbes ME 2	snake like animal				mane like seaweed	(long?)	serpentine 5-7 humps		dark		neither fast nor slow		40 ft		445	hump risin falling as moved
1925 Nord ME 1	camel	green and red			"beard" and mane	several feet	2½ feet across	yes, dorsal		fangs 6-8 inches		yes	100 ft	was fired at and dived	444	
1928 Murray ?ME ?	Camel or horse														445	
1930 Bestie ME 2	Camel/horse				mane		serpentine						40 ft	swam slowly around boat 5-10 mins	447	
1932 Kemp ME ?	shape undetermined				mane		5 ft thick		bluish green	serrated towards tail	4 knots against tide	slipped back in	80 ft		441	movements l a crocodile
1933 Langley ?ME ?	--- only back seen ---------------------						large dome		greenish brown markings		fast		big whale 750 ft	noise - grunt - snort & hiss	441	
1937 Lawrence ?LN ?	camel				small (=thin?)	size of barrel							50-60 ft		466	
1946 House ?					30 ft telephone pole	4 ft									473	
1947 Saggery ME 1	18 inches through	3 inches across jet black			brown mane	6 ft			mottled grey and brown						474	
1950 Brown ? 2b	snake						coil 1 ft thick, 6-7 ft long		dark		yes, very fast	no ripples		looked at witnesses	476	
1953 Waterfall ?LN 2	seal						2-3 humps						50 ft		506	
1954 Baldwin ?ME ?	horse													basking on the surface	507	
1958 Oesterhoff ?ME ?							1 ft thick						12 ft		507	undulating motions
1960 Sidney Couple ME-LN ?						8 ft								gulls were diving at him	507	
1962 McLean ME? ?	snakelike					4 ft	big bulbous hump	creamy yellow red veins					18 ft	wallowed among floating sea weed	507	

A long floppy mane is a very noticeable feature, and was observed by at least three witnesses (1931, X,Y; 1961, Stout and 1930, Rockwell). It occurs only in small-eyed animals of the non-serpentine variety (2a). The mane is associated with horns only in the first of these sightings. We deem the evidence insufficient however to justify putting these observations in a separate category and we suggest that the mane might be a sexually-related feature, seen perhaps only in males. It would then be easier to reconcile observations which differ only in the presence or absence of a mane. Such a sexual dimorphism has already been suggested (Heuvelmans, p. 445).

There often seems to be some confusion between ears and horns. For example, in 1937, X,Y; one witness sees ears, the other mentions horns. Similarly, in 1947,Pantages, the witnesses hesitate to decide on the nature of such head appendages. One witness (1957, Erickson) describes the ears as very mobile. It would be difficult to notice the ears when in a depressed position, flattened on the head and this may explain why many witnesses did not notice them or insisted that they were absent. It such is the case, the presence (or absence) of ears (or horns, as there seems to be some confusion as to that matter) is not a reliable classification index.

Other features, such as the form of the head, the colour, the number of visible humps and the length of the neck are extremely variable and do not fall into distinct groups. They are of little use in classifying the small number of observations at hand. We must therefore curb our imagination and leave our classification scheme at the rather gross level of eye size and body shape.

To sum up then, the data indicate the existence of three types of unidentified animals. 1) A creature with large eyes set laterally on a horse or camel-shaped head mounted at the end of a long neck. This animal is the most distinctive feature of most of the above reports. Colours vary between various shades of brown, and headshapes of various forms are recalled from the witnesses' experience to account for a form hitherto unseen, but "huge eyes" or "small wicked" eyes are often quoted and are clearly mutually exclusive. We shall thus first subdivide the sightings into two classes: 1) big-eyes and 2) small eyes. A reference to "wicked eyes" shall be deemed to mean small eyes (1944 Dudoward; 1946 Nilsen), as will be lack of any mention or drawing of eyes when the head was clearly visible (1939, Tildesley; 1961, Stout; 1968,Scott; 1950 Leighton). On the other hand, special reference to eye colour (1946,Grist) will be interpreted as evidence for large noticeable eyes. These criteria leave us with three reports on which no indication of eye size is given. Those are all imprecise second-hand reports (1918,Morris; 1930, Rockwell; 1946,Liston) which will be cast aside for now.

Our next categorization involves body shape. Three of the small-eye sightings mention loops, sticking out of the water, associated in the two eye-witness reports (1940, Luoma, 1946, Nilson) with very turbulent swimming. The (1946,Anon) report does not give any details on the mode of propulsion but has been grouped with the other two because coils rather than humps are mentioned. Such a description is of course subjective and humps might have been interpreted as upper parts of coils. In view of the anonymous nature of that report, it could not be checked further. The serpentine small-eyed animals will be put into a sub-class labelled 2 b.

The three categories so far introduced do not overlap but are still far from homogeneous. We must now become wary of the splitting game: the possible errors of interpretation involved in eye-witness reports is such that our data are poorly resolved. Let us nevertheless examine whether some of the other reported features might not be used to refine our classification.

has short dark brown fur and no mane. Body humps are mentioned only once (1947, Pantages). This animal strongly resembles Heuvelmans' Merhorse, but for the absence of the mane. It is probably a mammal and may be related to seals. 2a) A similar animal but with much small eyes, sometimes described with horns or a mane. Both of these animals are fast and smooth swimmers submerging vertically as if pulled under. 2b) A long serpentine animal, showing loops of its body above the water and swimming fast but with much thrashing. Its head is described as sheep-like and it has a dorsal fin running along its back.

The first two categories include most of the sightings and are far from homogeneous. Further observations might lead to recognition of a greater number of different creatures or to an understanding of apparent differences between the same type of animal seen in varying circumstances.

No obvious geographical correlation can be drawn from the distribution maps presented below. Sightings occurred in deep as well as in shallow water, near and off shore, inside and outside the Strait of Georgia and at various times of the year. The only obvious correlation is with the shore population density as evidenced by the large number of sightings in the Victoria area. A similar correlation does not hold for Vancouver where there is much heavier maritime traffic.

4.2 Heuvelmans' Sightings

We have gathered Heuvelmans' data on local sea-monster sightings in the same tabular form used for our results. (Table III). For easy reference, the number of the page where the sighting is discussed in Heuvelmans' book is also shown. Seven for which there is no description provided by Heuvelmans have been left out; these are 1933-Santa Lucia; Princess Joan; Capt. W.H. Davies, Percy Barnes; Ross; 1934 Andrews; 1942 Estevan Point and 1943, Lee. The one sighting which occurs in both sets of data (1947, Pantages) has not been duplicated. One report which Heuvelmans attributes to a hoax (1951,Charlton) has been ignored. Furthermore two sightings (1937 Timeus and 1959 Cameron Family) which could be accounted for respectively by a sea-elephant and an oarfish have been left out of the tabulation. Thus Table III contains the same kind of observations as Table I.

The two sets of observations overlap in space and in time. Table III is somewhat less densely filled than Table I: this is not unexpected, in view of the more direct method of data collection that we have been able to use. The distribution of the evidence also shows differences. For example, there is much more information about manes in Heuvelmans' than in our table and much less about eye-size. It is thus not surprising that we have been forced to use different classification criteria. Each classification is consistent with the data set from which it is constructed. We have already seen that our data cannot be squeezed into Heuvelmans' categories; can his data be fitted into our classification scheme? Following the rules defined in the previous section, we have entered in the first column of Table III the type into which the sightings fit accordings to our rules (an "x" would mean that the fit is impossible because of conflicting characteristics; a question mark indicates that the data is insufficient).

All of Heuvelmans' creatures can be distributed into our categories without apparent conflict. This does not mean much however, since our classification is based on eye-size, for which there is but little evidence in Table III. Again, lack of mention of the eye at close range is taken as implying a small eye, but it is not always easy to judge from the information contained in Heuvelmans' how far the observers were from the observed.

It is clear by now that our classification, and probably also Heuvelmans' must be considered only tentative and subject to possible radical modification when further evidence becomes available.

4.3 List of Sightings and Distribution Maps

All sightings discussed in Section 3 as well as Heuvelmans' sightings are listed below. (Table IV) Reference is given to one of three location maps, where the code number of the sightings is written in the area of observation. Some sightings do not appear on the maps since not even an approximate location was given. Doubtful positions are preceded with a question mark.

List of sightings and key to distrubution maps

New reports -- First-hand evidence

No.	Year	Names	Location	Map Number
1.	1905	Welch	Adams River	2
2.	1922	Cook	Malcom Island	2
3.	1922	Dudoward	Port Simpson	3
4.	1937	(Names Witheld)	Yachats	3
5.	1939	Tildesley	Ten Mile Point, Victoria	1
6.	1939	Sowerby	Off Destruction Is. Wash.	3
7.	1940	Luoma	Discovery Passage	2
8.	1943	Easson	Sidney	1
9.	1946	Nilsen	Saltspring Is.	1
10.	1946	Grist	Comox	1
11.	1947	Pantages	Vancouver	1
12.	1948	Kline	Jordan River	1
13.	1950	Leighton	Nanaimo	1
14.	1951	McLean	Quadra Is.	1,2
15.	1956	Spence	Victoria	1
16.	1957	Erickson	Welcome Pass	1
17.	1958	McCord	Victoria	1
18.	1959	Miller	Discovery Is.	1
19.	1961	Stout	Dungeness Spit	1
20.	1964	Young	Lama Passage	3
21.	1968	Scott	Crane Is.	1
22.	1969	Leonard	Ketchikan	3

No.	Year	Names	Location	Map Number
23.	1969	Harper	Denman Is.	1

New Reports - Second-hand Evidence

A 1	1892	(Dudoward)	Port Simpson	3
A 2	1918	(Morris)	Neah Bay	1
A 3	1930	(Rockwell)	Chehalis River	3
A 4	1944	(Dudoward)	Finlayson Is.	3
A 5	1946	(Liston)	Crofton	1
A 6	1946	Anon	Scotch Fir Pt.	1
A 7	1961	Witschi	Port Renfrew	1

Table IV List of Sightings. The first set of alphanumeric characterics identifies the sighting on the distribution maps. Date of sighting, name of witness and location follow. The last number refers to the appropriate map.

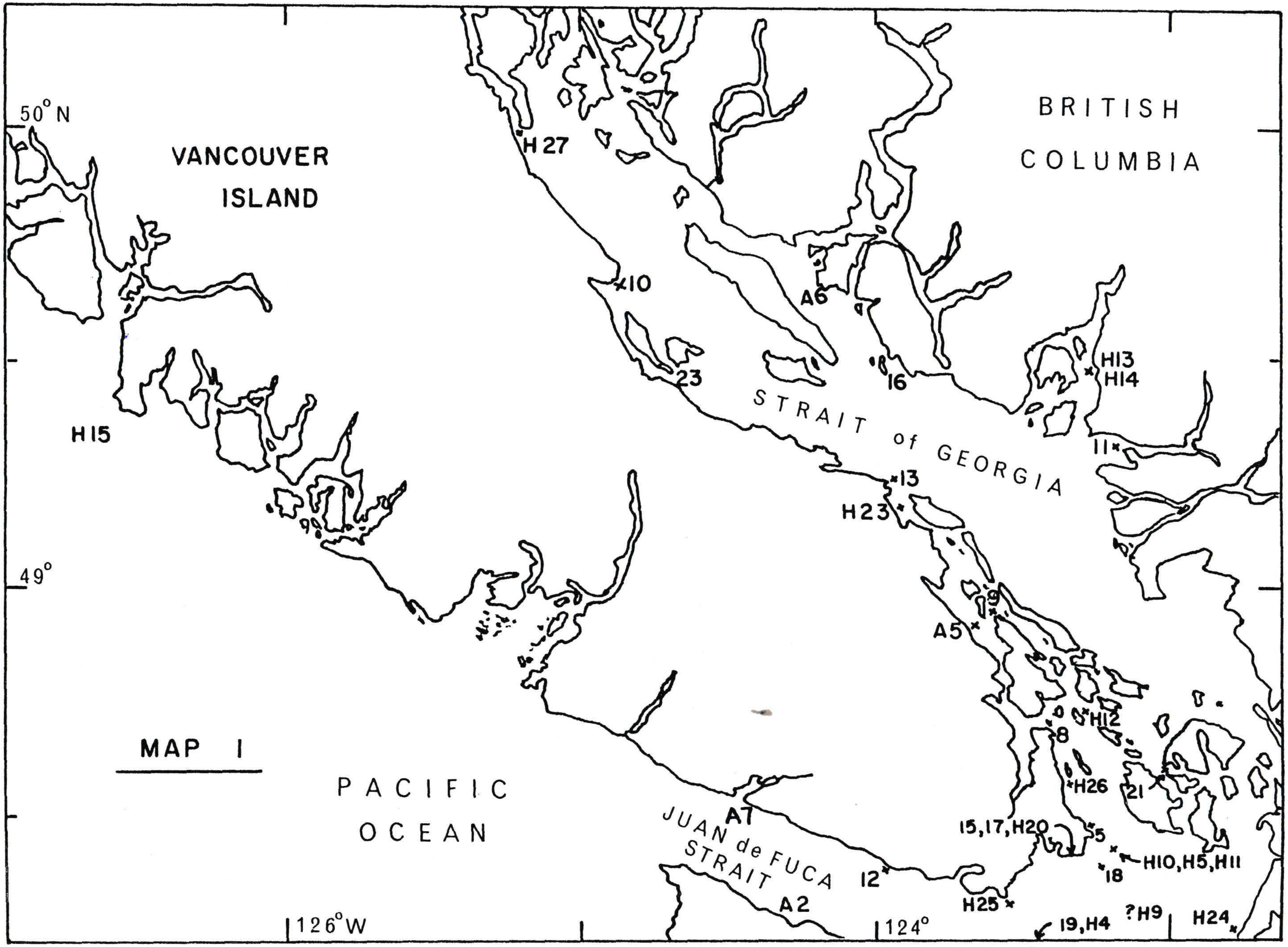
Sightings reported by Heuvelmans.

H 1	1912	Forbes	East Coast of Vancouver Is.	2	✓
H 2	1925	Nord	Menzies Bay	2	✓
H 3	1928	Murray	Off Vancouver Is.	3	✓
H 4	1930	Beetle	Dungenss Spit	1	— add.
H 5	1932	Kemp	Chatam Is.	1	✓
H 6	1933	Santa Lucia	B.C.		✓
H 7	1933	Princess Joan	B.C.		— OUT
H 8	1933	Capt. Davies	B.C.		— OUT
H 9	1933	Barnes	Between Victoria & Seattle	1	— OUT
H 10	1933	Langley	Chatam Is.	1	✓
H 11	1933	Ross	Chatam Is.	1	— OUT
H 12	1934	Andrews	Pender Is.	1	✓
H 13	1937	Trimeus	Sunset Beach	1	— add
H 14	1937	Lawrence	Sunset Beach	1	— add
H 15	1942		Estevan Point	1	OUT
H 16	1943	Lee	Off Vancouver Is.	3	collision
H 17	1946	Capt. House	Hecate Strait	3	✓
H 18	1947	Pantages	Vancouver (same as 11)	1	✓
H 19	1947	Saggers	Vancouver Is.	3	✓
H 20	1950	Brown	Victoria	1	✓

+ ~~1954~~ Murray p 445 Heuv
1928

No.	Year	Names	Location	Map Number
H 21	1951	Charlton	Qualicum	Hoax
H 22	1953	Waterfall	Qualicum	1 - got
H 23	1954	Baldwin	Namaimo p507	1 add
H 24	1958	Oosterhoff	Whidby Is.	1 ✓
H 25	1959	Cameron	Race Rocks	1 ✓
H 26	1960	A couple	Sydney, B.C.	~~1~~ out
H 27	1962	Maclean	Campbell River	1 add

p507

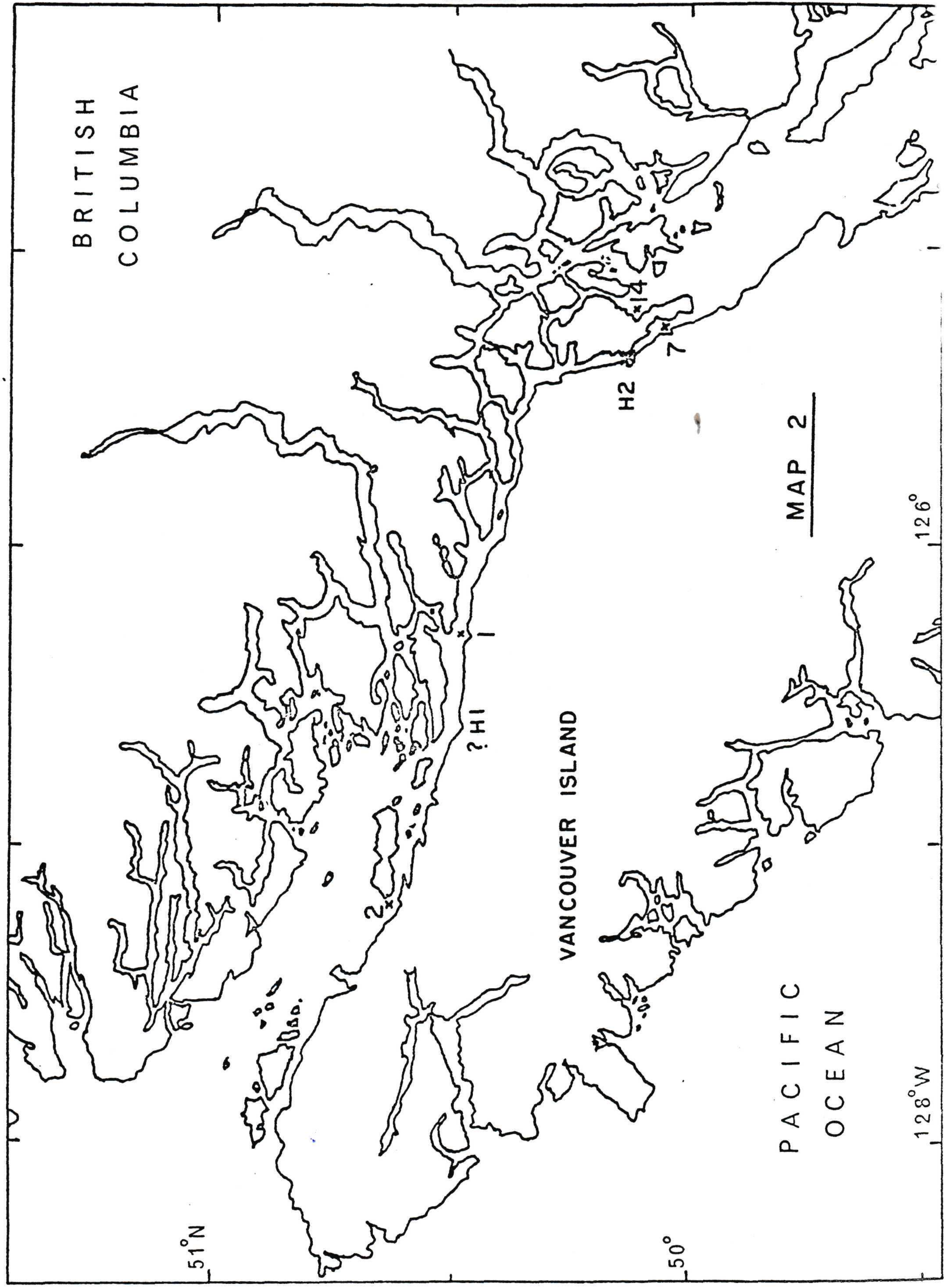


MAP I

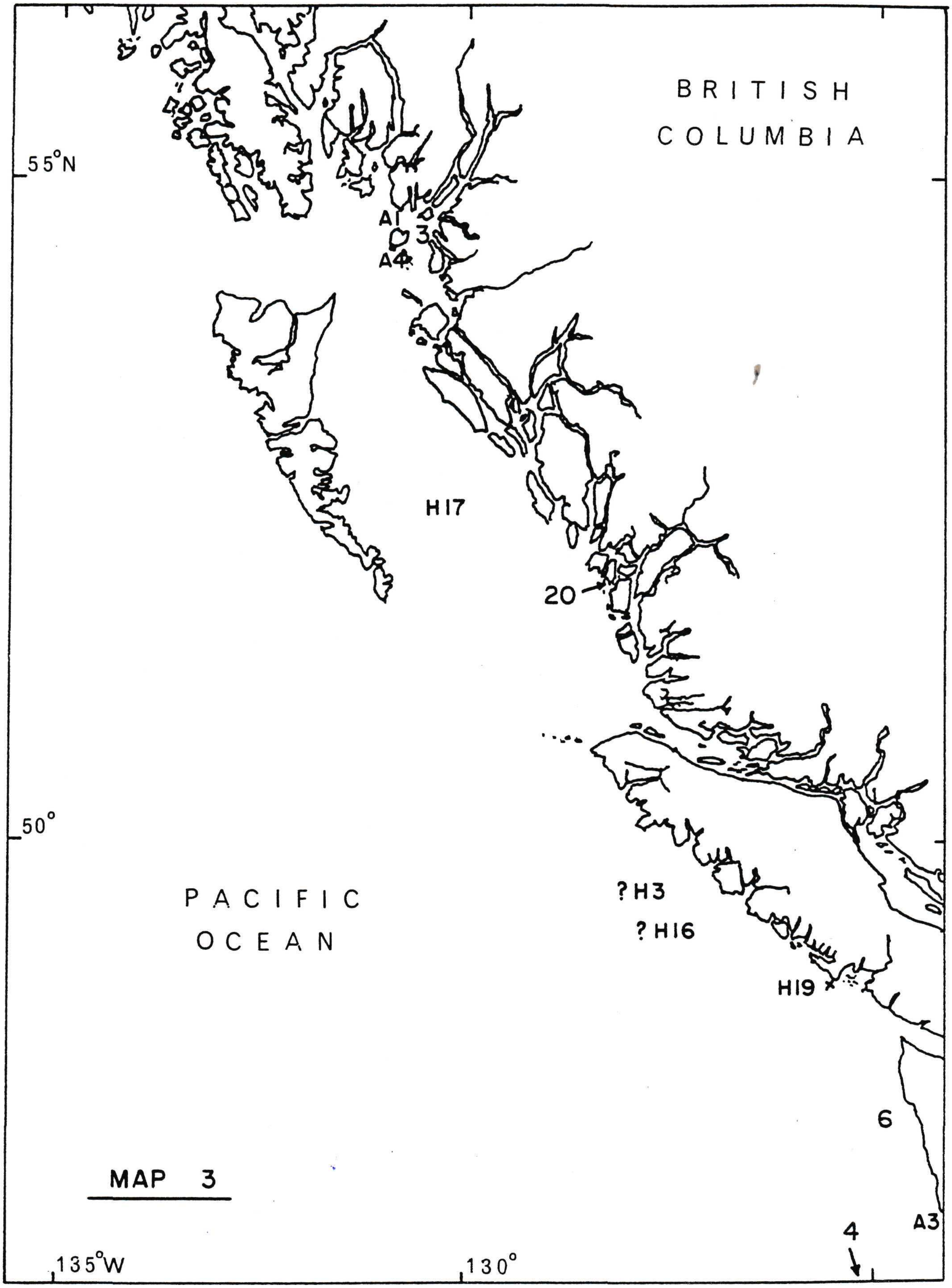
50° N
49°
126° W
124°
VANCOUVER ISLAND
BRITISH COLUMBIA
STRAIT of GEORGIA
JUAN de FUCA STRAIT
PACIFIC OCEAN
H27
10
A6
23
16
H13
H14
H15
11
13
H23
9
A5
H12
8
H26
21
15,17,H20
5
H10,H5,H11
18
A7
12
A2
H25
19,H4
?H9
H24

Map #1

Map #2


BRITISH COLUMBIA
VANCOUVER ISLAND
PACIFIC OCEAN
MAP 2
51°N
50°
128°W
126°
?H1
H2
14
7
2

Map #3


BRITISH
COLUMBIA
55°N
A1
3
A4
H17
20
50°
PACIFIC
OCEAN
?H3
?H16
H19
6
A3
4
MAP 3
135°W
130°

5. Conclusions

Do "sea-monsters" exist? Sufficient proof in the form of a wet furry or scaly corpse is not yet available, so that a clear "yes" or "no" cannot be given in answer. Eye-witness reports nevertheless indicate that there are possibly three kinds of strange animals swimming about in local waters which have so far escaped capture and scientific identification. One of the aims of our survey was to gather enough information on the characteristics of these animals to complete a "mug-shot" picture as an aid in identification and in a possible future search. We have indeed collected about as much information as is already published on the matter in this area. The mental constructs of the unknown creatures have however not been improved in the process; the data that we collected are inconsistent with Heuvelmans' previous classification and have thrown doubt upon his models.

It is often said that there is nothing worse than a bit more information to ruin a good theory. This seems to have happened here. The evidence provided by most sightings is usually very fragmentary and it is difficult to classify many sightings which have few common characteristics. Not only is more evidence needed, but evidence of higher quality! Our survey will be continued and an effort will be made to interview witnesses in person in the hope of squeezing as much useful information as possible from each sighting. We envisage pursuing this project as a hobby for many years, and we would welcome suggestions and information from the reader.

Finally, for those who read only the conclusions of reports, we present a final summary of our findings. From 23 direct eye-witnesses and seven second-hand reports, we have isolated 23 sightings which could not definitely or even speculatively be accounted for by animals known to science. On the basis of differences in the size of the eyes and in body shape, these animals have been classified into three categories. The first type of animal has very large eyes, a horse-shaped head, a long (5 - 10 ft.) neck and a body showing three humps. It is covered with short fur looking somewhat like coconut fiber. It is a fast swimmer and dives very smoothly, vertically as if pulled from under. This creature resembles Heuvelmans' Merhorse, except for the absence of a mane. The second type is very similar to the first in general body build except that its eyes are much smaller and often go unnoticed; some specimens have a long floppy mane running at the back of their neck and short giraffe-like horns on the head are also observed. The third animal is definitely serpentine in form, swimming with loops of its body emerging above the surface of the water. A jagged fin runs along its back and its head is described as sheep-like.

Acknowledgements

Our first and most sincere thanks go to the eye-witnesses and other people who provided us with information and without whose help nothing at all could have been accomplished. We also appreciated the indulgence and forbearance with which our colleagues at the Institute of Oceanography took this rather unorthodox project. We particularly wish to thank the Director of the Institute, Dr. G.L. Pickard, for granting us permission to publish this report as a Manuscript Report of the Institute of Oceanography. Mrs. Monica E. Lisle and Miss Diane L. Holmes typed the manuscript.

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Appendix I

Questionnaire circulated to the press and to various marine and coastal organizations in order to gather information on "sea-monster" sightings.

SEA "MONSTER" IDENTIFICATION FORM

1) a) Name of Witness

b) Address

c) Occupation

If you know other witnesses of this (or of some other) sighting, please write their name and addresses on the back of this page.

2) a) Location of sighting

b) Date and time of sighting

c) What were you doing at the time?

d) Exact position of observer

e) Distance of "animal" ~~for~~ from observer. In which direction?

f) Distance of "animal" from shore

g) Frequency of sighting

h) Sea state

i) Weather: windy? cloudy? foggy? raining?

j) Any observable current? (from drifting objects for example)

--- speed

--- direction

Please Return to: Dr. P.H. LeBlond)
~~Dr. J.R. [illegible]~~)

Dept [redacted] of Oceanography
University of British Columbia
Vancouver [redacted], B.C., Canada.
V6T 1WS

3) General aspect of "animal". If you can, please make a drawing on the back of this page.

a) estimated size: ________ length

________ breadth

________ how much did it stick out of the water

b) Colour

c) Did it have a head? a neck? tentacles? (now many)

fins? (how many) a tail?

4) **Details:** could you see any markings?

whiskers?

horns ?

ears ?

eyes ?

nostrils?

mouth ?

teeth ?

other features ?

5) Behaviour: what did it do?

a) swimming? — in what direction?

at what speed?

Please Return to: Dr. P.H. LeBlond)
[redacted])

Dept. [redacted] of Oceanography
University of British Columbia
Vancouver ~~8~~, B.C., Canada.
V6T 1W5

b) Did it: dive? blow? Make noises?

jump? threaten? come ashore?

was it curious?

c) How did it swim?

by wriggling sideways, or up and down?

did it use its tail? fins?

6) What do you think you saw ? Please enter any further details on the back.

Please Return To: Dr. P.H. LeBlond)
[redacted])

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University of British Columbia
Vancouver ~~8,~~ B.C., Canada.
V6T 1W5

Additional forms may be obtained upon request.